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                     UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                    FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
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                                   CIVIL ACTION NUMBER:
    IN RE:
            VALSARTAN PRODUCTS
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    LIABILITY LITIGATION
                                   1:19-md-02875-RBK-JS
 5
                                   STATUS CONFERENCE
                                    (Via telephone)
 6
         Tuesday, November 24, 2020
 7
         Commencing at 10 a.m.
 8
    BEFORE:
                             THE HONORABLE ROBERT KUGLER,
                             UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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                              THE HONORABLE JOEL SCHNEIDER,
                             UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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               (ALL PARTIES VIA TELEPHONE, November 24, 2020,
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    10:02 a.m.)
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Good morning, everybody. This is
    Judge Schneider. How are you?
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             RESPONSE: Good morning, Your Honor.
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             JUDGE KUGLER: Good morning, it's Judge Kugler.
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    is everybody?
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             RESPONSE: Good morning, Your Honor.
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             JUDGE KUGLER:
                           Is Judge Schneider on yet?
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Good morning, Judge Kugler.
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    didn't tell the 53 people on the call yet that you may be
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    especially ornery today after the Eagles debacle on Sunday,
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    but now they know.
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             JUDGE KUGLER: Although I didn't stay at a Holiday
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    Inn Express last night, today was free coffee Tuesday at the
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    Wawa convenient stores which are back here in the Northeast,
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    so I took advantage of that, so I'm in a really good mood
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    today.
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             (Laughter.)
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             JUDGE KUGLER: So I hope everyone is well and I hope
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    everyone can have a joyous Thanksqiving. I know times are
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    tough, and I know some of you and us have loved ones who have
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    been affected by this disease, and I know that many, many
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    states, including New Jersey, has severe restrictions on our
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    ability to be with family, but we do all have a lot to still
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be thankful for. There are a lot of people suffering and I think we're in pretty good shape, all of us, so have a happy Thanksgiving to all.

We are going to change things, the way we normally conduct these phone conferences and I'm going to go first, because there are some decisions that I'm going to make about the future of this case, and thank you for your proposed case management orders and your very thorough letters.

I know we got overnight from defense counsel this new amended class action Complaint, and I think that Judge Schneider will be dealing with that, and that issue that's been raised that we really haven't confronted before now, we've sort of taken a laissez-faire approach to these amendments, but I think we need to have a more formalized process in place, or we tend to get away from us.

Okay. First thing I want to start with is an issue once again raised and I'm not being critical here, trust me, I'm not being critical at all, and this is in Ms. Cohen's letter about personal jurisdiction. You're not going to be filing motions on personal jurisdiction at this time.

Let me make it clear once again, that I do not have jurisdiction or authority to get -- conduct trials in any of these cases that came from other states. My authority, unless the parties consent, is to try only those cases that were originated and belong in the District of New Jersey, and

that's -- I mean, that's going to open up discussions about trial dates in general.

When you get back to your jurisdictions from whence you came, you can certainly raise these issues of personal jurisdiction. I thought we were very, very clear in entering the direct file order that no one was waiving any objections whatsoever to being in the District of New Jersey from the standpoint of personal jurisdiction or venue.

So let's talk about trials generally. I mean, you all know that we've been shut down here in the District of New Jersey since March and last I heard, like 25 districts of the 94 around the country in the last two weeks have shut down again because of this COVID pandemic that's going on.

Our current plan in this district is that we were going to begin in mid-January criminal trials involving single defendants not in custody, just to start the process.

No plan whatsoever for civil trials. I don't think that's going to happen given what's going on back here in the East with this pandemic. I would be surprised if we actually try any cases, civil cases and criminal cases this spring. I think it's more realistic to anticipate trials in the summer.

Now, having said that, I think there's a misunderstanding among clients and the public about what's going to happen in the courts when we do finally open up.

Let's all hope that's true, the news about these vaccinations

and that we can get them to millions of people by the end of the year, early spring, and let's hope that everybody then thinks that come summer, we can go about our business. But it's not going to be like the mall is reopening.

We're in the service business here in the courts but we're not in the retail business here in the courts. It's not going to be like you can go to the mall in June and Macy's is open like it used to be open, you buy what you want. I don't think people appreciate what's happened.

Since early March, when we essentially shut down trials, because the government has continued to indict people. Our federal grand jury here in Camden shut down for about two months and resumed in June to late September, and then we just impaneled a brand-new grand jury in early October. So they've been returning indictments. Lawyers have been filing lawsuits in all these months.

So let's assume we can start trials in the summer, that's a 15-month period we've gone without any trials in the courts. That's an incredible backlog, particularly with the criminal cases. It's going to take us, in my opinion, years to catch up to. So I don't think anybody, and this is just generally, not just for this case, should have any expectations that, you know, we've been -- in New Jersey at least, we've been putting off trials for three months at a time and then three months and a trial that -- then when the

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cause.

three months ends finally that, you know, you're next up on the list and you're going to get your case tried. Well, that just isn't going to happen. That's not going to happen anywhere in the country. We can talk about, you know, we can conceptualize in the future trials and bellwether trials and I have some feelings about bellwether trials, I'm not a big fan of them but I accept them. But just remember two things. Number 1, the COVID-induced backlog, and Number 2, this Court, me, I don't have the ability to try anything over your opposition, unless the case originated and belongs in the District of New Jersey. So don't file any personal jurisdiction motions at this time. I appreciate that you want to, but I'm not going to permit it. Can we talk about the easy stuff first. The orders to show cause, because -- the fact sheet deficiencies. is at Page 18 of Ms. Cohen's letter. There are apparently two people Chance Huey, H-U-E-Y, and Donald Stewart, S-T-E-W-A-R-T, which apparently, you don't want to have dismissed at this time, because you apparently are going to

Do you want them carried to next month on the order to show cause list, Ms. Cohen?

resolve that, so you want those removed from the order to show

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MR. HARKINS: Your Honor, this is Steve Harkins with
Greenberg Traurig for the Teva defendants and the joint
defense group. We can remove them, we do not need to carry
them forward. To the extent that we're unable to resolve the
issues, we will add them back to the next conference.
                                                       So they
can be removed without carrying forward at this time.
         JUDGE KUGLER: All right. You got four others,
Dorothy Battle, B-A-T-T-L-E; Louis Fisher, F-I-S-H-E-R;
Theodore Keller, K-E-L-L-E-R; and Alcus, A-L-C-U-S, Gunter,
G-U-N-T-E-R.
         Should they be dismissed? Any objection?
         MR. STANOCH: Your Honor, this is David Stanoch for
plaintiffs, for the plaintiffs' group. We've contacted the
counsel for those four plaintiffs' cases on multiple
occasions. I understand that they're aware of it and if
they're not on this call now, I think you are correct, that
they would be dismissed at this time.
         JUDGE KUGLER: Anybody want to speak on behalf of any
of the four plaintiffs?
         Apparently not. They will be dismissed, those four.
         We have now, nine. This begins at Page 20 of the
letter. Nine defendants. You want to move to an order to
show cause, any changes to those nine?
         MR. HARKINS: Your Honor, for the defendants, those
nine are still pending, so unless there's -- plaintiffs'
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counsel, we need to discuss them, we would request at this
   time orders to show cause for each of those nine cases
  returnable at the December case management conference.
            JUDGE KUGLER: Any objection from any plaintiff?
            MR. STANOCH:
                         This is David Stanoch for plaintiffs.
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  No objection, Judge.
            JUDGE KUGLER: All right. These nine. James Suits,
  S-U-I-T-S; Charleston Pittman, P-I-T-M-A-N; Dan Torghele,
  T-O-R-G-H-E-L-E; Danny Tarhune, T-A-R-H-U-N-E; Durl, D-U-R-L,
  Welch, W-E-L-C-H; Patrick Belcuore, B-E-L-C-U-O-R-E; Linda
  White; Maria Noble, N-O-B-L-E; and Ralph Carmley,
  C-A-R-M-L-E-Y.
            They will be listed in an order to show cause why
   they shouldn't be dismissed for the December meeting.
            All right, then we have 13 cases. This begins at
   Page 27.
            They've already been listed once. You want to list
   them a second time before we get to the order to show cause.
  Any changes in those 13?
            MR. HARKINS: Again, no changes for defendants, Your
  Honor.
            JUDGE KUGLER: Any plaintiffs have anything to say
   about these 13?
            MR. STANOCH: David Stanoch for plaintiffs. No, Your
  Honor, we will continue to work with defendants in the
  meantime on these remaining 13 in the meantime.
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those state cases at the moment, or do you? Anybody want to speak on that?

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, this is Seth Goldberg for the parties and the defendants. I believe that is correct. I believe right now all of the state court cases are in such a status as they do not need the Court's intervention at this time.

JUDGE KUGLER: Okay. All right. In the defendants' proposed case management order, we suggest that they should be able to file future dispositive motions. Because there will be no summary judgment motions filed without leave of the Court. Those need to be phased when we get to that stage, which is down the road apiece.

Okay. Let's -- before I get off the order to show cause, we had a letter a couple of weeks ago from a lawyer, I think, in Louisiana, who represents one of the plaintiffs whose case had been dismissed at the order to show cause stage, wanting to set aside and vacate that order. Please appreciate that we cannot do that by letters, otherwise you lose track of these things. So he was instructed to file a formal motion. So if you're in a position where you represent or know someone who represents a plaintiff whose case has been dismissed at the order to show cause stage, you need to file a formal motion and follow the requirements of the rule, you know, that demonstrate why you didn't timely do what you

needed to do and why we should set it aside.

So please remember that in the future. We can't -we can't do these things by informal letters just because it's
hard to show that everyone gets notice of these things and we
need to have a formalized process when we're setting aside
orders of the Court.

All right. Let's get to this as to where we go now. Where are we going with this thing? I have read both letters, both sides, and I think where we're going to go with this is that we're going to set this thing up for general causation, expert reports, to be served such that come early fall, we can have hearings, Daubert hearings on general causation issues.

I'm also, as I had indicated in prior discussions with counsel, want to start discovery on all of the issues, on all of the tracks in this case, which means class certification issues and all those kinds of things, we need to start cranking up.

I do agree with defense counsel that I'm not going to decide class certification until after the *Daubert* decisions are made, because if -- if the defendants are correct and if the plaintiffs cannot demonstrate general causation, then there's really no purpose in class action. But you're going to be doing discovery on those issues of class certification, so that if the plaintiffs' experts survive the *Daubert*, then we can move immediately into class certification motions and

decide those motions at that time.

I understand that Rule 23 says for class actions, that the Court should at an early practical time decide class certification, but it's not practicable in this kind of a case at this time. It's a class certification issue.

We'll do that in due course after we have a full airing of the general causation issues.

Now, looking at the schedule proposed by counsel, this is Paragraph Roman Numeral III of case management schedule of the defendants' proposed case management order that has the deadlines. It gives the plaintiffs until Monday, Monday, to disclose the types of cancer for which they will provide expert reports.

I think that's a little -- just a little aggressive, folks. I think the plaintiffs -- I do agree the plaintiffs need to start delineating very soon the cancers which they believe were caused by these -- well, impurities or contaminants, I guess it depends on which side if you're sitting in the case, but these substances. We need an identification of where the plaintiffs think this is going to go.

But I think next week is just too soon and I would propose and I suggest and I think it would be fair, required by the end of the year, the plaintiffs to disclose what cancers they expect, anticipate that they'll be able to show

were caused by these products.

Just so that the plaintiffs -- I mean, that the defendants can start figuring out who's doing what and who wants what.

So I think it's really more appropriate -- I don't have any problem with the April 1st suggestion that completing fact discovery on the issues related to general causation. I don't know that it's possible to also serve all the plaintiffs' expert reports on general causation at the same time.

They may need to take into account what is discovered in order to express their expert opinions, so I think May 1st is probably a better date for the plaintiffs' expert reports on general causation accompanied by proposed dates of deposition for the plaintiffs' experts.

And then, I think, I think a month should be enough, the month of May, to complete the plaintiffs' expert depositions on causation and to also put defendants' expert reports on causation. And again, a list of dates on each expert report -- each expert, I'm sorry, is available for deposition, and then we can complete the expert depositions by the end of July, file the Daubert motions by the end of August. I'm not sure you'd need five weeks for a reply on that, so I would suggest that perhaps November 1st for any replies is sufficient on the Daubert motions, and then I'll

1 set hearings as soon as we get those papers on Daubert motion 2 at that time. 3 We should begin the class certification discovery. Maybe -- anticipating that Judge Schneider will be talking to 4 5 you about that amended class action Complaint and what that 6 does is affect the schedule, but he can deal with that. 7 Bellwether trials. Bellwether selection process. 8 agree with defendants that they should suggest 20 potential 9 plaintiffs so you have a total of 40 plaintiffs, which you're 10 taking discovery on for the personal injury cases. Where that 11 leads, I don't know yet. It would certainly be preferable if 12 we're going to do bellwether trials to choose the trials from 13 that 40, but my experience with that has not been satisfactory 14 because you end up with a lot of cases getting dismissed when 15 they're listed for trial. 16 So what I -- what I will do is, I will make random 17 selections if we get to that stage of bellwether trial for 18 that. 19 All right. Does anybody have any questions now about 20 where we're going with this thing? We'll start with the 21 plaintiffs. Who wants to speak for the plaintiffs? 22 MR. SLATER: Hello, Your Honor, it's Adam Slater, how 23 are you? 24 JUDGE KUGLER: I'm fine, Mr. Slater, how are you 25 doing?

MR. SLATER: I don't want to step on anyone's toes. I just have a couple of questions on the schedule dates just to clarify a couple things and then I'll let any of my colleagues who want to jump in do so. We're certainly not going to reargue anything you've said.

The deadlines that you set, I just want to make sure that we're clear. The May 1st deadline we understand is to serve plaintiffs' reports and get the plaintiffs' experts deposed in May. Please tell me if I understood correctly, that the defense experts' reports will then be served -- I wasn't sure if you were saying the beginning of June or the beginning of July, with them to be deposed in July? I just want to make sure we know that deadline.

JUDGE KUGLER: June 1st for defense experts with dates that the defense experts are available for depositions.

MR. SLATER: And I was going to suggest, Your Honor, just -- because obviously, we have an interest in moving things along as well as we can, would it make sense, because you had said July, would it make sense to depose the defense experts by the end of June, that way we can get our Daubert motions to the Court. I think you said by August, that's fine, by the beginning of August, and then the next question was, you said replies on Daubert by the end of November. I would suggest that we, from the plaintiffs' perspective, certainly don't -- will not need that much time. If the

1 motions are served at the beginning of August, or even at the 2 end of August, I don't think we'll need till the end of 3 November to reply to that. So if you would like to push things forward a little 4 bit, I think that there's some room to work us forward a 5 6 little bit or back as the case may be. 7 JUDGE KUGLER: All right. So what you're suggesting 8 is, the depositions of the defendants' Daubert experts -- not 9 Daubert experts, but you know what I mean, be done in June. 10 So by July 1, we'll complete the defendants' expert 11 depositions, correct? Is that what you're saying, Mr. Slater? 12 MR. SLATER: Yes, Your Honor. 13 JUDGE KUGLER: All right. I don't have any problem 14 with that. Let's see if we can do that. 15 If I may, it's Victoria Lockard from MS. LOCKARD: 16 Greenberg Traurig and on behalf of defendants. We just need to make sure we build in enough time to -- you know, we will 17 18 need to take the deposition of plaintiffs' causation expert, 19 and then we'll need time to get the transcripts, get those to 20 our experts, and -- so I just want to make sure we have, you 21 know, a good 60 days between when we get their expert report 22 and are obligated to then produce our expert reports with 23 dates of deposition. 24 I don't think we can turn that around in 30 days. 25 JUDGE KUGLER: Well, I think you can. Why don't you

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give it a try, we'll see how it goes. Just try to turn that around in 30 days and then -- but we'll keep the -- I think you're right, the proposal in the defendants' case management order has the replies not till November 11th. I don't think you need that much time to do that. I can tell you from our perspective, MR. SLATER: Your Honor, unless somebody wants to, on our side, quiet me down, I would think 45 days would be more than enough time to respond to the Daubert motions, and we'll of course be filing affirmative motions against defense experts as well, so it will be -- I assume contemporaneous. JUDGE KUGLER: Yeah. Both sides by August 30th have to file the Daubert motions. And then has October 7th for opposition, and then can you -- and I was suggesting November 1st granting replies. That will give you three After the oppositions to reply to the other side's weeks. opposition. Okay? MR. SLATER: That's great, Your Honor, thank you very much. MS. LOCKARD: We can live with it. JUDGE KUGLER: Set that up and we'll get hearings and that, you know, I'm confident that we will have the courthouse open at that time and I contemplate that those hearings are going to take a week or two, and it's generally been my practice on a Daubert challenge to permit the expert to

19 1 Perhaps you want the experts to testify, the other 2 side's expert to be further cross-examined, but, you know, we 3 can set all that up and decide how to do that. 4 Okay. Any other questions about where we're going with that? 5 6 MR. NIGH: Your Honor, this is Daniel Nigh. For the 7 bellwether cases, we actually didn't contemplate when we picked 20 cases that those were purely for plaintiffs' 9 bellwether techs. So if we're going to do a bellwether plan, 10 we would just ask the planners to pick 20 bellwether -- just 11 like defendants are picking 20 bellwether picks. 12 Those 20 cases we picked were solely for the purpose 13 of getting completed DFSs and we picked them more to make sure 14 that we had coverage across the scope of defendants as opposed 15 to just picking our best 20 bellwether plaintiff picks. 16 we're going to do that, we would prefer to at least have our 17 chance of picking fresh bellwether picks. 18 JUDGE KUGLER: That's fine. When can you have that 19 done? 20 MR. NIGH: I think we can get it done -- I think the 21 defendants are going to be on the same page and we would 22 probably exchange bellwether picks at the same time, I think 23 we can get it done in 30 days.

JUDGE KUGLER: Okay. 30 days, both sides.

25 Your Honor, and we can discuss this, MS. LOCKARD:

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defendants have to provide responses to a defendant fact sheet

for each of the plaintiffs, and so all of the retailers have been providing defendant fact sheets for those initial 20, which took -- I think they were provided 60 to 90 days, I forget the exact date, I think it might be 90 days, and then that goes up to the wholesalers, because the wholesalers can't complete their defendant fact sheets without information from the retailer fact sheets. They get 90 days and then that goes up to the finished dose manufacturers, who need the information from the downstream defendants and then to the API manufacturers.

We had been proceeding on the notion that those initial 20 selected by plaintiffs would go through the defendant fact sheet process, which should be completed somewhere around February/March. It depends really on when the plaintiffs file their plaintiff fact sheets, we think. So we should have that process completed in large part in February/March, adding the 20 plaintiffs that defendants propose would obviously result in the additional work for those defendant fact sheets, but adding 20 more on top, you know, which would require a significant amount of time in terms of discovery from the defendant.

MR. NIGH: Your Honor, this is Daniel Nigh. My one response to that would be if we -- you know, for the first time, we've been given a proposal from the defendants on bellwethers and we weren't asked to discuss bellwethers in

terms of scheduling, but if they want to, in terms of the timing, they're going to be asking for fresh picks right now.

So in terms of the clock, I don't see the fact of us, you know, simultaneously exchanging picks would extend the clock at all, because they're going to have to do all that DFS on their picks anyway. It was never plaintiff bellwether picks. It was picks to do discovery on, and we did it from a cross section of different defendants.

So that wasn't our intention but to the extent that they're worried about the level of work and we haven't had any of this discussion, but we could -- if that happened, 20 and 20, I mean, 40 is a very large pool, we could have a smaller pool, we can do 15 and 15. That type of thing would be fine with us, this idea of those being plaintiff picks, and now they get to do fresh defendant picks, to me, I would just ask that we be able to do, if we're doing this for the purpose of bellwether, we'd be able to have bellwether picks.

MS. LOCKARD: And just to correct, for the record, we submitted to the Court and the plaintiff, at the end of September, our proposed case management schedule. We resubmitted this schedule with some adjustment on October 30th and then we heard back from plaintiff on this, just a couple of weeks ago.

So, you know, I take issue with this suggestion that this is the first time we've raised that, you know, we've

raised this and we've tried to have this discussion a few times, and plaintiffs have not wanted to deal with the personal injury plaintiff selection or workup, and so they've continued to push it to the back burner.

Now, in terms of the numbers, we would need to -- you know, we need to discuss this I think among the defense, that, you know, from my perspective and from Teva's, you know, I think we would be fine with some fewer number than 20, you know, maybe 15, you know, maybe even we could go down to 12. But, you know, I don't have any authority from the other defendants to agree to that just yet.

That may be something we can meet and confer with the plaintiff on if the Court's inclined to allow them to go back to the bell and pick new plaintiffs.

If that happens, however, then I think it's fair that we take -- you know, we, you know, we continue the deadlines for the previous 20, so that we're not having to work up 20 plaintiff cases that aren't even in the bellwether pool for selection. I don't understand why plaintiff would pick 20 cases that they wouldn't anticipate being, you know, the bellwethers or at least the focused cases that -- if that is what it is, then at this point, you know, I don't understand. It seems that they don't need to provide discovery on cases that aren't even going to be in the bellwether pool.

We need to be working up the real cases so that we

Thank you. So what do you want to say?

MR. GOLDBERG: Well, Your Honor, as we've discussed previously, in defendants' view, there is no need at this time to appoint a special master to assist the Court in this matter, and, you know, we can point to Judge Schneider's management of the discovery in this case as the best example, and we can also look at where this case is headed as Your Honor has already, you know, today set a schedule for general causation that really is beginning a new phase of this case.

Judge Schneider to this point, in his role as a magistrate has cleared out virtually all of the preliminary pleading issues, such as the short-form Complaints, the Master Complaints and has cleared out all of the written discovery, or least put the parties on a path to complete written discovery.

The manufacturer defendants are completing their document productions this week, the wholesaler and retailer defendants, the downstream defendants, I think are completing their document productions. The Court has established a process for plaintiff fact sheets, for defendant fact sheets, as Your Honor just heard. The parties are working through those, so disputes as to all of these issues have really been resolved by Judge Schneider in terms of what would be required with respect to the scope of discovery.

Of course, Judge Schneider will hear some more of

that -- those kinds of issues over the next few weeks.

But what it really shows is that this case is manageable by the Court, by Your Honor with the assistance of a magistrate judge. This is not the kind of case where the parties have, you know, knock down, drag them out disputes that are overburdening the Court. We've been able to resolve most things by agreement, or by routine discovery motions to this point.

Going forward, the case is really headed into a different phase. We are now going to get into fact depositions with respect to the defendant employees and the cross-representatives and now per your order today, the personal injury plaintiffs, and so, we're really headed into a place where the disputes are about discovery, will be of a different nature than what Judge Schneider has presided over to this point.

So in defendants' view, there does not seem to be the kind of exceptional condition that warrants the appointment of a special master, nor does there seem to be and I -- notwithstanding COVID, because Judge Williams has been assigned, nor does there seem to be the lack of an availability of the magistrate judge to assist Your Honor in these proceedings.

And it's worth noting, Your Honor, that when you read plaintiffs' letter, well, they are open to the suggestion of a

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special master, but they have not identified to the Court, nor could they, is a compelling need for a special master, and that's really what is required, is a compelling need to impose upon the parties the cost and the potential delay in these proceedings of a special master. So for those reasons, we don't think a special master is warranted at this time. JUDGE KUGLER: Who wants to speak for the plaintiffs? MR. SLATER: Hello, Your Honor, it's Adam Slater. Your Honor, this is obviously a decision that is well within the Court's discretion, and our letter was written with that in mind as well as with a complete understanding of what Your Honor has communicated to us during discussions over the course of this year. There's no doubt from what Your Honor has been telling us and what Your Honor reiterated today that there is a compelling need for us to have the type of support that a special master can provide. What Your Honor described a little earlier in this conference regarding the criminal backlog in these courts is a scary situation, and those of us who practice in New Jersey understand the load that a magistrate carries for a heavy criminal docket. So that's something that we are closely aware of.

We do not agree that the case is now on some sort of a smooth track without any foreseeable difficulties. In fact,

the preliminaries in this case have been incredibly complex and we are now transitioning into the most complex phase of the case when we're actually going to start taking the critical depositions around the world in order to establish the factual record for the types of issues that are going to be addressed over the course of the next year or so, per Your Honor's case management order.

We certainly believe that, you know, the way that

Judge Schneider has handled this litigation has probably, and

I'll put this in quotes, "spoiled" the litigants on both sides

and allowed the litigants to fall into a sense of complacency.

Judge Schneider has spent an incredible amount of time focused on this litigation, his level of availability is unprecedented. The level of work that he puts into this is unprecedented; the conference calls on the weekend, the e-mails at night, the messages from him giving us guidance on upcoming conferences is not something any litigant would ever be conditioned to expect from a magistrate judge in the State of New Jersey in light of the immense caseloads that they carry, aside from the situation we're now facing with COVID.

When you look at the entire landscape, the thing that we emphasized in our brief is continuity and Judge Schneider has a level of what we will call institutional knowledge about this litigation which cannot be replicated. Judge Donio and Judge Williams and I guess Judge Williams is the assigned

1 magistrate, technically, are wonderful judges. Judge Williams 2 is a tremendous judge, but there's only so much that one 3 person can absorb. 4 Judge Schneider has been absorbing this for years. Just look at the issues we're going to argue today, the level 5 6 of granular complexity in just deciding 30(b)(6) topics and 7 how they're to be phrased, et cetera. So the plaintiffs 8 interested in keeping this litigation moving and being able to 9 get to a point where we can -- get to a point where we can get 10 class certification done, where we can get to trials piece by 11 piece of this litigation and eventually bring things to a 12 head. And whether Judge Schneider were to be put in as a 13 special master for all issues, or for a segment of the issues 14 which he and the magistrate could then work out between 15 themselves and give us that constant access, we believe that 16 would be a tremendous benefit to this litigation. 17 So unless there's any questions, I think that's the 18 plaintiffs' position, Your Honor. 19 JUDGE KUGLER: I don't have any questions. Thank 20 vou. 21 Mr. Goldberg, did you want to respond in any way? 22 MR. GOLDBERG: No, Your Honor, except on the very 23 last point, and to note in our letter to Your Honor. 24 Honor is inclined to appoint Judge Schneider as the special

master and again, we don't -- we don't think that any special

master is necessary, then the way to achieve the continuity that Mr. Slater mentioned would be to have Judge Schneider preside over the issues he's been presiding over, which would be the written discovery issues, issues pertaining to the fact depositions, but that new issues, issues pertaining to general causation and Daubert and class certification would be allocated to Judge Williams, as those are really things that Judge Williams can pick out, as both judges would be picking those up for the first time, and in that way, Your Honor could achieve the continuity now minimizing the burden on the parties, including the cost burden and the time delay of having things routed through a special master.

JUDGE KUGLER: Okay. Thank you for your briefing on this matter and thank you for what you've said. They're very cogent comments on both sides.

But I think the balance certainly favors appointment of a special master. As we all know, this has come to a head because of the impending retirement of Judge Schneider from this. One needs to look at Rule 53(a)(1)(c) which sets the standard. The Court can appoint a special master only to address pretrial matters that cannot be effectively and timely addressed by an available district judge or magistrate judge.

This is one of the most complex cases currently pending in the United States, there's three different drugs, and we haven't really gotten into the other two drugs yet.

There's all kind of different classes of complaints, you've got the personal injuries, you've got the class action medical monitoring, you've got third-party payor class actions, et cetera.

Should the medical monitoring class action be certified, claims can be in the millions of people. There's dozens of defendants, there's all kinds of wires of the distribution chain that we're going through, trying to figure out who's who. And although it's not necessarily reflected in the orders entered by the Court, Judge Schneider has decided hundreds of issues.

Now as to availability, we have two other current magistrate judges in Camden who are simply swamped with work. We're in a district, as many of you know, that's been in a judicial emergency status for years now. While we expect a new magistrate judge to come on soon after Judge Schneider's retirement, that person has spent his entire career as a prosecutor, has never handled a civil case. We can't exactly ask him to step into the breach.

Now the Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized a fourth magistrate judge position in Camden, but we don't expect to be able to fill that under the budget requirements until sometime late in the spring. So that won't do us much good, whoever that new person is.

Now perhaps the recent election will change things

before we have new district judges.

and we'll get some of our six vacancies filled, but who knows.

And even if that logjam, whatever the reasons, there's this
logjam in filling seats in New Jersey, let's assume that that
gets solved somehow, it's still probably going to take a year

I think many of you know that I have an enormous docket of criminal cases, I have 90 defendants awaiting trial, many of them are complex trials that are going to take months to try, many others are going to take weeks to try. I have over 800 pending civil cases, and frankly, I'm informing civil litigants that I will not be reaching their trials this year, next year, or probably not the year after.

So clearly, we have no available district or magistrate judges and clearly, this COVID pandemic has made matters much worse.

Defendant relies on a number of cases, but they're not helpful. They cite the *La Buy*, L-A-B-U-Y, Supreme Court case from 1957, but that was a referral to a special master for trial of two antitrust matters and that case was decided over a decade before Congress passed the Multidistrict Litigation Act which eventually led to the creation of the JPMDL, and that case was decided over 40 years before the extensive 2003 amendment of Rule 53, which the commentary says that Rule 53 is revised extensively to reflect changing practices in using masters.

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From the beginning, in 1938, Rule 53 focused primarily on special masters who performed trial function. Since then, however, Courts have gained experience with masters appointed to perform a variety of pretrial and post-trial function. And further, the commentary says the employment of masters to participate in pretrial proceedings has developed extensively over the past two decades as some district courts have felt the need for additional help in managing complex litigation.

That was written almost 20 years ago. I think it's important to remember how Rule 53 amendment came about, and this is how rules get amended and happen. The Judicial Conference of the United States is the governing body of the United States Judiciary. It's composed of a chief judge in each circuit and a district judge from each circuit, the Chief Justice of the United States is the chair who rarely votes, and the Judicial Conference has committees which advise it, as such things as the budget and personnel and rules, and there is a committee on the rule, including one on the civil and one on criminal, one on bankruptcy, et cetera, and the rules committees are made up mostly of judges, but they also have some academics and lawyers, and after public hearings, the committee then proposes a new rule or a rule change to the Judicial Conference which then votes whether to approve it or not.

If approved, it goes to the United States Supreme

Court and they are rare, and on occasion, some justices have

objected to some rule changes, the Supreme Court then decides

whether to approve the rule, and if they do, then it goes to

Congress, the Chief Justice sends it to Congress, Congress has

180 days to reject it. If they remain silent, the rule or

amendment goes into effect.

So the 2003 amendments to Rule 53, which noted the change in practice, from the days when we just had special masters performing trial functions, to now where we have special masters doing the job, is clearly approved by the Supreme Court.

Defendants also rely heavily on Prudential Insurance Company versus U.S. Gypsum, which is a 1993 Third Circuit case. That was not an MDL case and again, it was a full decade before the complete rewrite of Rule 53, and it came at a time when I think that we believed and certainly the Judicial Conference believed, that expansion of magistrate judge system in the United States would be able to cure the then critical congestion in the courts. In that case, the Prudential case, the referral to a special master came after five years of discovery, and it directed the special master to rule on contested dispositive motions.

I have no intention of having a master in this case rule on any dispositive motion.

nowhere near as complex as our case.

And in that case, after only 21 discovery-related motions, which such -- described as aggressive motion practice, how quaint, the magistrate judge on the case appointed a special master to continue the discovery issues. The Circuit noted the apparent change by 2015 in the process of appointing special masters and noting that that Supreme Court case La Buy was decided long before the change in Rule 53. Therefore, the Third Circuit approved the appointment of a special master for discovery-related issues.

I think Judge Sleet, District of Delaware, got it right in the *Joint Stock Society* case, which is reported at 104 F. Supp. 2d 390, District of Delaware, 20 years ago, even way back then before the Rule 53 amendment.

Before that, the critical concerning cases wherein issues referred to a special master over the objection of one of the parties, is whether the district judge has impermissibly abdicated his or her constitutional powers by authorizing the master who lacks the distinct attributes of

1	Article 3 status can make dispositive rulings which determine
2	the fundamental light or interest of the parties.
3	We don't have that situation here. Masters are not
4	going to be exercising Article 3 rights.
5	Now, JPMDL doesn't break out the statistics and there
6	is some talk in your letters about the statistics. The clerk
7	of the court was able to identify for us 12 other MDL cases
8	they felt were less complex than this one, and in which one or
9	more special masters has been appointed.
10	And there's 2738, the Talcum Powder case. Although
11	there's over 20,000 cases, there's only one defendant and one
12	product.
13	2820, the <i>Dicamba</i> , D-I-C-A-M-B-A, <i>Herbicide</i> case,
14	there's less than 50 cases.
15	2824, the Gold King Mine case, there were only six
16	actions in that case and the special master there is a formal
17	magistrate judge.
18	2841, the Monat, M-O-N-A-T, Hair Care Products case,
19	there's one defendant, 13 cases.
20	2850, Wear White Industries Employee Antitrust, now
21	closed, but there were 13 cases, three defendant groups.
22	2879, the Marriott Customer Data Breach case, there
23	were 90 actions, only one principal defendant.
24	2914, $\it ERMI\ LLC$ patent litigation, that was all about
25	one patent, 12 different lawsuits, again, special master is

1 appointed. 2 2656, Domestic Airline Travel Antitrust case, 100 3 cases, conspiracy to fix prices by direct purchasers. 4 2599, Takata, T-A-K-A-T-A, Air Bag, 350 total cases, economic loss of personal injury. 5 6 2333, the Lipitor Antitrust case, there's 34 total 7 actions, and that was an action by direct purchasers and 8 third-party payers in the patent case. 9 2311, the Automotive Parts Antitrust. There's 370 10 actions and plaintiffs were end payers, direct purchasers, 11 dealerships, original equipment manufacturers and even states. 12 2151, the Toyota Unintended Acceleration cases, 450 total cases, one defendant. There were economic loss class 13 14 actions and personal injury cases. 15 They also supply us a number of cases, about 20, in 16 which there's been more than one special master in 20. 17 So I think it's fair to characterize this as one of 18 the most complex MDLs currently pending in the United States. 19 I think it's very clear that we do not have the ability to 20 effectively and timely address pretrial matters in this case. 21 Defendants also raised the issue of cost, and again, 22 Rule 53 (a)(3) and 53(q) required that I look at the issue of 23 cost and the fairness of imposing the likely expenses on the 24 parties, that I must protect against unreasonable expense or 25 delay. I'm not -- I have not seen what the like could

possibly be, as to unreasonable expenses, you know, the defendants cite an hourly rate that they think they'll have to pay, but there's no perspective and no context.

For example, none of the defendants are willing to tell me how much collectively they've charged their clients thus far in this case. I bet it's in the millions of dollars. None of the defendants have indicated to me what their budgets are. I'm quite confident that these corporate defendants required counsel to submit a budget with an estimated cost in the future, based on my experience in these cases, and, you know, I do pay attention to these MDL cases around the country.

I anticipate the collective defense costs in this case will exceed, by the end, \$100 million. So when you take that into consideration and when you see the perspective of what it costs for special masters, it's miniscule.

And it goes without saying that some of these defendants are some of the largest corporations in the world with billions of dollars in annual profits.

So I don't think raising the issue of cost is helpful whatsoever.

I will take the defendants' suggestion that we'll allocate these costs of special masters 50/50, between the plaintiffs' side and the defense side.

How you reallocate that among your various people is

up to you to figure out in the first instance, and, of course,you know, I can resolve any of those.

Now, as I have stated in the past, I think we should have separate special masters for the settlement part of this. And I have given defense counsel till November 30th to suggest names, and I will do that also regarding a special master for discovery purposes. I'll give you till November 30th, and trust me, folks, I know Thursday is Thanksgiving this week, I get it, but these are the dates that you asked for. I mean, this is an issue we've been kicking around for many, many months.

So by November 30th, as to the discovery special master, you can suggest names. If you can both sides agree on Judge Schneider, that's great, but I'm not telling you you have to or don't have to. That's your choice. If you can't agree on Judge Schneider as the discovery special master, well, then, I'll find somebody else.

You've got till the 30th to suggest names to me for settlement master.

Now, I may or may not agree with your selection.

It's my intention at this point to inform you in early

December who I select as special masters for discovery and for settlement purposes, because I believe that you have a right to object on grounds of conflict of interest or bias for anyone I select.

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I will point out that local Rule 15.1 requires that when a motion to amend is filed, it has to indicate whether or not there's consent or an objection to the motion and a redline copy of the proposed amendment has to be provided.

That will enable us, especially in this case, to

accelerate the decisions on the motion. Most of the -- most if not all of the requests to amend were not terribly substantive, so it was pretty routine that the amendments were granted. As to those sorts of amendments, when the motion is filed, we'll take a look at them. If it indicates there's no objection, we'll enter an order granting the motion even before the return date.

But if there's going to be an objection to a motion,

But if there's going to be an objection to a motion, you know, they'll be briefing, and, you know, appropriate, like I said, appropriate briefs and we'll decide it on the merits.

So that's what we're going to do with regard to the Amended Complaint. We'll enter an order with the date -- I took good notes -- the dates that Judge Kugler indicated, and we'll memorialize that in a case management order that you'll get probably -- well, maybe even before the holiday, but I'm not sure.

In looking at the agenda, we'll obviously address any issues the parties want to address. There's a lot of meaty issues to address. I'd appreciate the thoughts of counsel about the best way to approach this.

We have the 30(b)(6) issues, we have the addendum issues. Looking at my notes from review of the plaintiffs' letter, the ZHP production deficiency issue, the wholesaler discovery issue. I think those are the big issues to deal

Is there a way we can identify the common issues that

cut across all the notices and deal with those first, and then if we have to, to deal with the individual issues.

MR. SLATER: Yes, Your Honor. I was going to suggest -- again, it's Adam Slater for the record. We've provided the notices to Your Honor in -- just in a random order starting with Aurobindo.

I think the way that it would play out is, we can start with Aurobindo, for example, and as an issue comes up that is addressed by the Court, when we get to the next party, if the same issue is there, you know, Your Honor will likely have addressed it, and if there's any specific nuance to another defendant, they can certainly raise it. But I would think that after we get through a couple of these, because there's not that many issues in dispute at this point, that by the time we get through a few of them, we'll be getting to the point where you will be able to ask defense counsel if there's any other issues that haven't been addressed yet. So I was thinking that might be an efficient way to go through it, and by the end, we will then have each of the notices completed and we'll be able to know what we need to do with them and get them entered.

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, this is Seth Goldberg. I
-- I actually disagree about trying to proceed with the
30(b)(6) notices. I disagree about the efficiency. We did in
our letter present to the Court the global issues that run

MS. SCHWARTZ: Sure, Your Honor, and before jumping in specifically to this topic, just a general comment really relating to all our general topics here, is that we're really seeking to do two things, and those are to limit the notices to the parameters that the Court set out in the macro discovery order that was entered around this time last year, and also, to identify the topics with the requisite particularity which will enable the defendant to identify the correct corporate designee and adequately prepare those designees as necessary.

So I mean, those principles don't really apply to this topic. What we're seeking to do is to expressly incorporate the Court macro discovery rulings on the scope of discovery with regard to the specific product at issue in this case.

So on November 20th, 2019, Your Honor rendered an oral opinion where you noted that this case involved sales of Valsartan in the United States and that is where the focus of plaintiffs' discovery should be.

In the associated macro discovery order, I believe at Paragraph 7 did include a limited exception.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Ms. Schwartz, can I just -- just to make sure we're on the same page, because I looked at this last night, are we talking about the Court's order dated November 25, 2019?

1 MS. SCHWARTZ: Yes. 2 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Great. So we're on the same 3 page. Great. Continue. 4 MS. SCHWARTZ: Great. So in that order that you just 5 referenced at Paragraph 7, you reiterate the focus on product 6 intended for the United States market with the limited 7 exception or documents from any source regarding unknown and unidentified testing peaks to a general toxic impurity in 9 Valsartan API or Valsartan. 10 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Can I jump in here. Ms. Schwartz, 11 I'm sorry, again, for interrupting. I just want to make sure 12 that we got the right paragraph. I don't know if you have the 13 order in front of you. 14 Paragraph 7 specifically addresses the request for 15 foreign sales marketing materials and agreements. Is that the 16 paragraph you intend to refer to? 17 MS. SCHWARTZ: That's right. 18 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Great. Okay, I'm sorry. 19 Continue. 20 MS. SCHWARTZ: What the manufacturer defendants are 21 requesting here is that the scope of discovery that is 22 expressly laid out both in your November 20th oral opinion and 23 in that November 25th order, be expressly applied to the 24 30(b)(6) notices. As they're written currently, the 30(b)(6) 25 notices would apply to any Valsartan product, that stands for

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any market and that's a massive expansion of the scope of discovery beyond the parameters of that order. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Can I ask you a question there? Because if you have the order in front of you, should we read Paragraphs 6 and 7 together? Paragraph 6 deals with requests for foreign regulatory documents. Generally, the Court held that they are off limits except for certain specific categories of documents, and anything regarding Valsartan contamination and documents regarding potential or actual nitrosamine contamination prior to July 2018. MS. SCHWARTZ: Right. So one of the other issues is that we are seeking, to the extent plaintiff has not typically incorporated that language into the notice, that that language would also be applied. So, for example, in the ZHP notice, plaintiffs and defendants have reached agreement to specifically include that language in the notice, and we would also request that that language be applied in the notices for all the manufacturer defendants. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Thank you. So the Court understands the general objection.

So I have plaintiffs' letter and I know attached to

might be helpful for the Court is to look at a specific notice

and the specific language that plaintiff uses.

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it are the different 30(b)(6) notices for -- that they sent
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    out. Which ones should we use as sort of the sample?
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             MS. SCHWARTZ: I think the ZHP notice probably is the
    most comprehensive. I know that is attached as Exhibit A to
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    defendants' letter.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Let me get that. Exhibit 8?
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             MS. SCHWARTZ: Exhibit A.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: A. Okay. Hold on one second.
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             MR. SLATER: Just for the record, you're looking at
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    the third amended notice I assume?
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
                               I'm looking at -- I have
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    Mr. Slater's November 23 letter. It looks like the exhibits
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    are by numbers. So what number should I look at?
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             MR. SLATER: I'm pulling out Exhibit 14, No. 14, Your
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    Honor, which is the third amended notice to ZHP, if that's
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    what counsel wants to start with.
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             MS. SCHWARTZ: Okay. We can work with that.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Let me pull it up. 11, 13.
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    Okay. I have Exhibit 14. Can you point me to the specific
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    language and page that is at issue?
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             MS. SCHWARTZ: Yes. So Page 4 is where the real
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    substance of the notice begins, and I believe six, six small
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                It begins: "All references to the API."
    paragraphs.
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    believe that's where we should begin.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Go.
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In fact, Your Honor, if counsel were correct about their interpretation, the entire basis for the worldwide recall, the Novartis discovery of this problem would be off limits to us, because that was API that was sent to Novartis's arm in Europe to evaluate for sale in Europe. It happened to come from the same facility, manufactured by the same process and that triggered the worldwide recall.

So what they're trying to do is create the impossible distinction to draw, which is contrary to the ruling.

If you go through your order, for example, and I'm coming back to the facilities, it was recognized early in this case when we were talking about figuring out the cause of the contamination, that we need to figure out what was happening in those facilities that manufactured the API and finished dose.

Again, it's all manufactured in the exact same way on the same assembly line with the same processes, et cetera. So it would be virtually impossible to take a deposition limited to just what was sold in the U.S. because again, the documents are written that way, and, Your Honor, we provided you Exhibits 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, which are examples of documents that we have obtained in discovery to date, which show you that the inquiries regarding contamination, peaks, quality assurance processes, et cetera, have been coming to. And we'll talk about ZHP first, because they jumped in to be the

lead dog on this, to ZHP from suppliers, distributors, et cetera, around the world.

We have Korea, we have people in China, we have people in Europe, companies all over asking questions of them and ZHP having to try to explain what's going on.

So the entire contamination issue to not be split up the way that they're asking to do, it's essentially an effort to cut us off from asking witnesses about a tremendous number of massively relevant documents.

And again, the Novartis example is Exhibit A on this. That was what triggered the worldwide recall and that occurred in Europe with a sample of API sent to an arm of Novartis in Europe.

So, you know, I hopefully have answered it, but if you go further down into your order, Your Honor, you also establish that foreign regulatory evidence is relevant. And in No. 7, there is a sweeping bit of information that Your Honor read which says that we are allowed to take discovery of information that's in the possession, custody, and control of the defendants containing information from any source, any source in the world, regarding unknown and unidentified testing peaks or general toxic impurities in Valsartan API or Valsartan.

So why is that important? Because this is a problem that was discovered outside the United States. It's an issue

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that people were coming to ZHP, going back to 2014 and earlier, asking questions about suspicious findings on their own chemical analysis of Valsartan and asking questions, and unfortunately, ZHP, they're the ones who again jumped to the front of the line, was untruthful with those companies and untruthful with those people and deflected those requests, and the internal e-mails show that they pointedly said, don't tell them this information, tell them about this testing, don't answer that question. So a big part of this case is going to be that the inquiries were coming from all over the world about these impurities and problems and contamination, far earlier than it ever was known in the United States. So again, the facilities is what Your Honor put in play, and the facilities is what we should have the right to take depositions on in accordance with the macro order. MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor --JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Hold on, hold on, Ms. Schwartz. Why can't the notice track the language in the order? Because as I'm looking at the language right now, it doesn't indicate that the testimony is limited to just the facilities at issue in this case. If you read it --It actually does, Your Honor. MR. SLATER: sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt. Let me --

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If it does, point it out to me. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: MR. SLATER: Sure. And I want to -- I will point it out to you. Turn to Page 5, please, the testing section, and I want to say to Your Honor something, the unfortunate thing is that ZHP jumped in to argue this motion, because most of the major disputes that have been put in front of the Court have been generated by ZHP, whereas most of these issues have been worked out very reasonably with the other defendants who understood what things meant and didn't have this request for USP on that Valsartan. That language only came from ZHP. But look at Page 5, the testing section. Look at Question No. 3. That definition wasn't intended to be that granular. No. 3, the testing performed by ZHP or its agents to evaluate the purity and contents of ZHP's API regardless of intended sale location manufactured in any facility that manufactured ZHP's Valsartan API for sale in the United States. That's exactly what counsel is saying we didn't do, when it's right there in black and white. We did that throughout the notice, at their request, and if you flip the

throughout the notice, at their request, and if you flip the pages, you'll see that language redlined in to this third amended notice, every single question they asked for it.

Everywhere they pointed to that problem, we added it.

So again, I want to be very clear, Your Honor, these notices were heavily edited through the meet-and-confer

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process to get to a point where we addressed, we believe every single valid concern, and you can see, if you keep flipping through it, Page 5, Page 6, Page 7, you can go all the way to the end. You will see every question where that is an issue, the issue of the facilities, we actually put in specific language encompassing the macro ruling. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I know, but could we put this issue to bed by just making it clear perhaps in the two paragraphs that Ms. Schwartz pointed out, that -- that -- that the macro order controls, and it's not every facility that ZHP manufactured Valsartan in, but only those that manufactured for sale in the U.S., wouldn't that put this issue to bed? MR. SLATER: I'm happy to do it, Your Honor. We can do that also. It's not a problem to add that language and it may even be in a few of the other notices already, because again, you understand the problem we had is, the defendants wouldn't negotiate with us en masse. We were told we had to negotiate with each separately, which -- that's why I was surprised when counsel stepped up and said, no, we -- now we want to argue together, when we weren't able to negotiate together. But, yes, I'm happy to add the language upfront. That should take care of the issue. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Ms. Schwartz, isn't the polestar in all of this that this macro order controls?

MS. SCHWARTZ: That's correct.

there's no dispute about that, the macro order indicates what facilities are at issue, and doesn't -- with that clarification, does that address the -- and the specific addition of the language, just to make it clear, do these two paragraphs that we're talking about, does that address your issue?

MS. SCHWARTZ: I do agree that it's correct to specifically include the language of the macro discovery order. I just do want to clear up a point of possible confusion or continued dispute, if I can refer you to Request 3, which Mr. Slater just used as an example.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Request 3, I got it.

MS. SCHWARTZ: Great. We would still maintain that the product that should be at issue in discovery is the product intended for sale in the United States with the limited exception laid out in Paragraph 7 of the macro discovery order, rather than any product made in a facility that manufactured U.S. product.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Yeah, I don't think that's right, because, suppose, you know, I don't know how it works in China or ZHP, but if you have one -- one facility, and if the -- I'm making this up, one portion of the facility makes Valsartan for South Korea and one portion makes Valsartan for the United States. If the South Korea portion is contaminated with

whatever, that would be relevant to -- clearly relevant to this case, even though that Valsartan wouldn't be sold in the United States.

So I don't think we can narrow the discovery that you're seeking, whatever -- I think Mr. Slater is right about this. Whatever happens in the facility is relevant to the case, because if it's contaminated for South Korea, that would be relevant to whether it's contaminated in the United States.

So that's my ruling on that issue.

Ms. Schwartz, are we done with that?

MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, I do believe that that's inconsistent with at least my reading of the macro discovery order, and I'll note that the language in the macro discovery order addressing some limited discovery of foreign regulatory documents would -- should provide plaintiffs with relevant information regarding those types of issues for product, for other markets that you've addressed, especially combined with the language giving them discovery of general toxic impurities and unidentified testing peaks.

So I'm not sure -- we don't believe that just wholesale allowing discovery of any products manufactured in those facilities is necessary or even necessarily appropriate here, because plaintiffs attribute other exceptions would be getting the type of information that they are arguing is material to the case.

1 Everybody understands the macro order controls. notice. 2 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: That's certainly the case. 3 Next issue. 4 MS. SCHWARTZ: The next issue is the scope of a number of requests that have been included, that reference two 5 6 uncertain terms and the terms that we're discussing here are 7 CGMPs, standard operating procedures, policies and procedures. 8 We note that there are an untold number of CGMPs, 9 standard operating procedures, policies, procedures, and our 10 dispute is that we are entitled to a certain level of 11 particularity so that we can identify the appropriate 12 corporate designee and adequately prepare that designee on 13 these topics. 14 So for these requests relating to these very broad 15 general terms, we're seeking particular identification of the 16 CGMPs, SOPs, policies and procedures at issue. We understand 17 that might not actually at this point look like an actual 18 point-by-point list, so our proposal is that those be limited 19 to the CGMPs, SOPs, policies and procedures referenced in FDA 20 correspondence or documents relating to the investigation into 21 the macro --22 MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, this is Seth Goldberg. 23 May I just ask that you remind people to put their phones on 24 mute if they're not talking. There's more and more background 25 noise happening on this call.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I agree with that. So if you're not speaking, please put your phone on mute.

 $\label{eq:local_problem} \mbox{All right, Mr. Slater, what say you about Roman} \mbox{\colored}$ Numeral V?

MR. SLATER: Your Honor, in order to give you the context of what the request actually says, I'd ask Your Honor to turn to Page 7, please, in our notice, the third amended notice to ZHP, and you can look at Request No. 21. Again, this was language that was heavily negotiated and has been agreed to.

And this language, we believe, is more than sufficient for specificity. But let me take a step back because counsel at the very end, all of a sudden in their letter to the Court, came up with this argument, we should be limited to discovery of the standard operating procedures and good manufacturing practices that might have been mentioned in the FDA documents.

Your Honor recognized early in the case that the plaintiffs may not want to be limited to and embrace everything the FDA did or did not do, and we said on the record, no, we don't want to be limited, we're going to do our own investigation and Your Honor acknowledged that's appropriate.

Your Honor stated on the record, on November 20, 2019, on Page 14, Line 16, in this regard, and I'm quoting:

API."

current good manufacturing procedures or practices.

Plaintiffs are entitled to find out if these facilities have actual or constructive notice of the contaminated Valsartan

That was the context of that statement but it obviously applies to the finished dose as well. So we have a request here which adopts your language in both the transcript and the order, from the macro rulings, which specifically denote the types of standard operating procedures we're interested in.

We're not interested in those that relate, for example, to how big the box is or what type of tape you put on the box. This is specific to the exact language that Your Honor stated on the record, which I believe has been agreed to by every party, or virtually every party, other than ZHP.

The last part of what counsel is saying is they want us to list them, and they said their fallback is the FDA correspondence.

I will tell you, Your Honor, one of the things that was very refreshing about this process, once we found out we were going to talk to all six of these manufacturers separately, is that the tone and the level of cooperation was quite different across the defendants, and many of these things were worked out in a very different way than what Your

Honor hears on these calls, and that's something that was refreshing to us and something that we're going to start taking note of and informing the Court of more often as we move forward.

This is a great example. In the discussion with the other defendants, it actually was embraced by several of them that what we will do, is we will have the meet-and-confer process, not just on these requests, but this is a good example, the SOPs, where we will sit down with the defendants and we will say, okay, tell us which of those SOPs, that --you've given us many, because as Your Honor knows, you get 20 revisions and you don't know when they were in effect, et cetera, and some of the defendants said, well, we don't want to be having our 30(b)(6) witness surprised, we'd rather know exactly which ones applied.

We said great, let's meet and confer. You'll show us which ones were in effect, you'll show us which specific SOPs and CGMPs applied. We'll then go back to the documents and tell you if we see other ones, and that way, we can narrow the field so when we walk into the deposition, both sides are educated going in.

The only party to cross that language out, to my knowledge, at this point, was ZHP. They don't want to meet and confer on anything, but the other defendants do.

So that's going to be a process we're going to do by

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66 I know it only -- that only pertains to SOPs and not What are you looking for that's not there? MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, this addresses broad categories of SOPs and doesn't really delineate them with the particularity that's required for us to understand the SOPs that the designee will be expected to be prepared to testify on. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Well, I don't know if I agree with that because it specifically says those SOPs that are intended to prevent, detect, et cetera, et cetera, any impurity or contamination, for example. So Mr. Slater is absolutely right, you can rule out the size of the box or plastic wrapping or anything like that, or what kind of shoes they have to wear to work on the production line, that's not what he's interested in. It seems to me, Paragraph 21 gives appropriate notice to ZHP about what they're looking for, and I don't know at this point if they can provide any more detail.

Certainly they're not going to limit it to what's in the FDA documents, because rightly or wrongly, we know that the plaintiffs are not necessarily agreeing with what the FDA did.

And that's their position. I don't know if it's going to be right or wrong, but, you know, from Day 1, that's the position they're taking in the case.

represents that they expect testimony on certain sample documents, and the current language obligates plaintiffs to provide those sample documents 30 days in advance of the deposition. The defendants' position, that given the large number of topics, the complexities of preparing a witness under today's circumstances with COVID and foreign defendants, identifying the right person, adequately preparing them, that we would like 60 days to review these documents and prepare the witness.

MR. SLATER: Your Honor, 30 days is more than enough. These depositions are slated to start in less than two months. So technically, we'd have to start serving them now and we don't even have full document productions. And I'll also add, this is the party, ZHP, that doesn't want to meet and confer with us on anything. They're the party that's struck every single meet-and-confer phrasing that we put into this notice.

So with respect to counsel, 30 days is more than enough. I mean, we can't have our depositions completely prepared 60 days before, and this was language that we put in, that we're going to meet and confer, because we want to talk to the defendants and we want to make these depositions to the extent possible on especially the sale and pricing and the profits and the market, size and market share and things like this, more confirmatory than exploratory, and most of the defendants have agreed to that, to actually meet and confer to

1 the point where the deposition can be again confirmatory of 2 information that's been informally shared rather than 3 exploratory. 4 So, you know, I think 30 days is more than enough, 5 especially if a party wants to meet and confer on the robust 6 and transparent level. 7 MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, just to clarify our position. We have not sought to strike the language with the 9 meet and confer. We are perfectly willing to meet and confer 10 with plaintiffs on this issue. 11 I can also note that the sales and price 12 introductions were made in May through July of this year, so 13 plaintiffs would have the ability to provide these documents 14 with particularity required by Rule 30 today. So we don't 15 believe that 60 days is too much of a burden here. 16 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Ms. Schwartz, let's leave it at 30 17 days with this caveat, if there's good cause in a particular 18 instance why you need more than 30 days, you can make an 19 application to the Court, and if you establish good cause, 20 we'll get it to you sooner. But prima facie 30 days should be 21 enough, but if there's a special case, special circumstances 22 that warrant it, we'll grant more time. 23 So I think that will protect your client's interest. 24 Thank you, Your Honor. MS. SCHWARTZ: 25 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Number 7.

MS. SCHWARTZ: Yes. The last global issue we have is really a series of small issues, but it's about the characterization of what plaintiffs are calling contamination here. So we've had multiple rounds of new notices due to meet and confers between the plaintiffs and defendants for, you know, in the case of every defendant, and during the course of those new notices, plaintiffs added in language seeking information regarding, quote unquote, actual and potential nitrosamine contamination. We have a few issues of this.

The first use of the word, "potential." Potential is the vague ambiguous term that really calls for nothing more than speculation. I don't understand how you prepare a designee on a potential issue. So we're seeking that due to the complete lack of clarity there, that any reference of potential contamination be stricken from the notices.

MR. SLATER: Your Honor, the phrasing potential or actual nitrosamine contamination is actually found in multiple places. It's found in the macro order in Paragraph 6. It's found in the transcript when Your Honor was addressing testing for actual or potential contamination.

Again, this is on Page 22, Line 24 of the November 20 transcript.

I think that counsel well understands the distinction. Every single pill that was sold was not tested. Every lot was not tested. This went on for years before

anybody had an inkling that these pills were being contaminated with something which is used purposefully to give cancer to laboratory animals. That's what NDMA is used for.

No one knew that for years.

So part of our proof in this case and part of our both causation and damage modeling is all going to rely on us not only pointing to what was proven to be contaminated by actual testing of those lots, but also, based on the evidence that we are accumulating through the documents and most important through these depositions, which lots were likely contaminated, or the flip side, which pills and lots is the defendant unable to exclude as being contaminated.

And Your Honor remembers we had that discussion about two years ago where I begged for an informal market share meet-and-confer process, where all the parties would get together and figure out the scope of what was actually or potentially contaminated in the U.S. market and the defendants said, no, you can do that when you take your corporate rep depositions.

So that is where we are at and that terminology is very clear. It's obviously highly relevant and we would ask that that objection be denied.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Last word, Ms. Schwartz.

MS. SCHWARTZ: Yeah, Your Honor, to highlight the ambiguity, I think it might make sense to look at one of the

specific topics. So if we could turn to Topic 20, I think this is an example that highlights how unclear the use of potential -- this topic requests testimony on the extent of the actual and potential nitrosamine contamination of ZHP's Valsartan API finished dose in the United States both in terms of the concentration per pill and across all of the lots and batches.

It's unclear to me how a designee could testify as to potential contamination in terms of concentration for pills or identifying batches speculatively.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: This was the language used in the macro discovery order. It was entered after extensive argument. We didn't have this dispute at that time, I don't know why we're having this dispute at this time.

I don't know how I could include that language in the November 2019 order, but say it's inappropriate for the notice of deposition, so it stays in.

MS. SCHWARTZ: Thank you, Your Honor. We have one more aspect of this issue as well, which is the use of the term "contamination." We -- the manufacturer defendants' position is that anywhere in this notice where the word, "contamination" is being used to refer to the presence of nitrosamines in Valsartan, that it would be a more accurate and clear way of phrasing the notice to use the words "presence of nitrosamine impurities."

I don't think that there's a dispute in this case that the nitrosamines are believed to be impurities, but the question of contamination is really a factual question that will be answered in this litigation.

THE COURT: I respectfully disagree, Ms. Schwartz.

We have been using that term throughout the course of this

litigation. Let me see if I could pull up the macro discovery order right now.

We used it in the -- I'm looking at Paragraph 6 of the order. We used it at that time, no objection. So I think as my mother would say, I think we're cutting the salami a little too thin.

Obviously, we know defendants' position that it's alleging that even if this -- these chemicals were present, it doesn't cause any injuries, that's clear, you're not making any admissions by this language, so it stays in because again, we used it in the November 2019 order and there's no reason to take it out of the case now.

So does that deal with the big-picture issues with regard to the 30(b)(6) issues, and now, do we have to go through each notice individually to address the issues?

MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, that disposes of the issues we presented as global issues, and may dispose of all the issues for certain defendants, but I believe there are still some small individualized issues pertaining to specific

1 notices. 2 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Well, let's deal with ZHP, because 3 you have the floor, so let's deal with all the ZHP issues, get 4 them resolved, and then we'll move on to each individual 5 defendant. 6 MS. SCHWARTZ: All right. So for ZHP, we have really 7 just one issue, and before we burden the Court with discussion, it's not clear from the most recent version of the 9 notice that was sent to us very shortly before the position 10 statements were submitted if this is still a live dispute. 11 I don't know if Mr. Slater's had the chance to review 12 that portion of the briefing in detail, but if you could just 13 advise if this is still a dispute we should be raising with 14 the Court, I'd be grateful. 15 MR. SLATER: I read everything you wrote, I read your

MR. SLATER: I read everything you wrote, I read your entire papers until three in the morning last night. Happy to discuss anything.

Is the issue that you're raising the, quote unquote, acceptable question?

MS. SCHWARTZ: Yes.

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MR. SLATER: It's a simple issue, Your Honor. Within the case of ZHP, they have a very close relationship with their downstream entities, Huahua, Solco, and Prinston. So what we did in response to some of the questions by defense counsel, if we go to Exhibit A on Page 4 of the ZHP notice, at

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the very beginning, there's a statement that says: "All
topics, referenced information and documents known to and/or
in the possession, custody or control of ZHP in the ordinary
course of business."
         Do you see that, Your Honor?
         JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I'm on -- I have Exhibit A and I
see the very first paragraph that mentions Solco. Is that
what we're referring to?
         MR. SLATER: On Page 4, if you have the ZHP notice,
you might have gone to the Solco notice, but it's the same
language, so it's immaterial.
         JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Let me make sure I got the right
exhibit. Okay.
         MR. SLATER: They were together in my exhibits.
                                                         They
were -- all the ZHP family, the companies we put together
under one exhibit tab with ZHP at the front.
         JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okav.
         MR. SLATER: But again, the language is identical on
this issue.
         JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. I think I -- I think I --
let me just make sure we're both on the same page. I see all
the different ones. Okay. All topics, blah, blah, blah,
blah, in control of ZHP in the ordinary course of its
business. Is that what we start with?
        MR. SLATER: Correct. I had been -- a few inquiries
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had come from some of the manufacturers we negotiated with early on. They said, look, we want to make sure, you're not trying to turn our 30(b)(6) witnesses into independent experts who have to go out and gather information.

I said, no, of course not. We understand what a 30(b)(6) witness is obligated to testify to, and we just documented it there to give some comfort.

The issue with ZHP is, they want to have their 30(b)(6) witness testify, but not be responsible to no information that in the ordinary course, would have been acceptable to ZHP through it's wholly-owned subsidiaries that handled all of its U.S. operations.

And to a large extent, they've addressed this issue because they specified the requests for which Solco, Prinston, and Huahua will produce corporate representatives and that's why we have separate notices to each of them limited to those requests. But ZHP basically is saying, look, just because these entities have that information, we shouldn't have to know about it, and our position is reasonable, if it's accessible to you, if in the ordinary course of business, that's information that would be passed along and you would have access to it, then it would come within the normal scope of what a 30(b)(6) witness would know. So I was surprised that this was a topic of controversy.

MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, our position is that the

language that's currently in the notice, more than -- that the language as currently in the notice is more than sufficient to address ZHP's obligation. The custody -- I'm sorry, the standard under the rules is information within the possession, custody and control of the noticed party in the ordinary course of business, and that's the standard that we believe should apply.

Plaintiffs had asked us to make some sort of representation regarding our ability to provide information that, quote unquote, acceptable to ZHP, and we don't see any benefit in introducing a layer of confusion and adding a standard that is not the standard required by the rules.

I think it's also worth noting that ZHP has been very forthcoming in response -- or the ZHP parties have been very forthcoming in response to these notices. We agreed to provide designees to testify on each topic and we've gone so far as to respond on behalf of the same corporate entities that might part of the ZHP family, Solco, Huahua U.S., and Prinston and we've done so in a way so that Solco, Huahua U.S., and Prinston will each provide a designee on the topics that are primarily within its own possession, custody and control in the ordinary course of business.

So we feel that the language of the agreement that plaintiff is trying to seek here is just going to impose a burden on ZHP that exceeds the scope of the rules, introduces

1 ambiguity and doesn't actually solve anything because some 2 entity is going to provide testimony on each of these topics. 3 The question is here, is ZHP going to be responsible 4 for all of those, or will it be the entity that's really in 5 possession, custody, and control of the relevant information. 6 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Ms. Schwartz, do I understand you 7 right, that at least with regard to this one sentence we're 8 referring to, as it's phrased right now, in the ordinary -- in 9 the possession, custody or control of ZHP in the ordinary 10 course of its business, you don't object to that. 11 Do I understand that correctly? 12 MS. SCHWARTZ: That's correct. As it's stated in the 13 current notice, we do not object to that sentence. 14 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. So is the dispute that 15 Mr. Slater is asking you to confirm something that you 16 believe, "you," being ZHP, believes is beyond what's required 17 under the rules, and this specific language. 18 MS. SCHWARTZ: That's right. We don't have a problem 19 with the specific language included in the notice. Our 20 objection is that -- is to the fact that Mr. Slater is 21 requesting that ZHP affirm it will produce a designee to the 22 extent any given information is accessible to it as opposed to 23 in its possession, custody, or control. 24 I agree with ZHP on this one. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: 25 language is appropriate as it's stated. I don't think any

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    further clarification is needed. We know what the rules and
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    case law requires, and that's what the witness has to testify
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    to, what's in the possession, custody, or control of ZHP.
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             So I think the language is appropriate and it stands
    as is with no further additions.
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                           Thank you, Your Honor.
             MS. SCHWARTZ:
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: So, Ms. Schwartz, does that take
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    care of the ZHP notice?
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             MS. SCHWARTZ: That does.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Slater, should we go through
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    the other companies one by one?
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             MR. SLATER: I think so, Your Honor. I think they
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    should be done quickly because Your Honor has addressed most
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    of the issues already I think.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I say let's run through them and
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    get it done. So I'm looking at --
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             MR. SLATER: Great.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: -- at your letter. I think we'll
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    do them in order. No. 9, Exhibit 9 is Aurobindo. Is their
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    counsel on the phone?
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             MS. HEINZ: Yes, Your Honor, this is Jessica Heinz
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    for Aurobindo.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Hi, Ms. Heinz. Are there any
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    issues with the notice that we need to deal with?
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             MS. HEINZ: We covered them when we discussed the
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We've informed plaintiffs' counsel that we believe that other members of that supply chain are equally represented by their own counsel and that are separate and distinct from Hetero Drugs and Hetero Labs would be able to provide that more useful and fruitful testimony.

Now it's just a matter of whether plaintiff will agree to allow those specific topics to be addressed by a separate notice to that separate member of the supply chain.

MR. SLATER: Yes, yes, we can do that, I think, Your Honor, and then -- I'm sorry, Your Honor, go ahead.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: No, go ahead, go ahead, Mr. Slater.

MR. SLATER: I was going to say, I'm aware that
Camber in particular I think is the entity for the most part,
possibly Hetero U.S.A. on the discreet issue on FDA
communications, but we're open to meeting and conferring to
the extent that Camber will agree to accept a notice based on
them telling us which topics they can also address, and, you
know, I would assume that that should be a smooth issue to
address. If there's any, you know, dispute, we can probably
discuss it later.

But this is just a question of Camber saying, hey, we'll tell you, for example, about the sales numbers in the U.S. I think, if it gets to that type of question, and if they have better data and they'll work with us transparently. We have no problem with getting the best data possible.

1 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Terrific. Exhibit 13, Teva. 2 MR. HARKINS: Your Honor, this is Steve Harkins from Greenburg Traurig for the Teva defendants. We have not had a 3 4 chance to discuss some of our most recent redlines with 5 plaintiffs' counsel. We were negotiating over the weekend. 6 There are a few specific issues that we can raise at 7 this time, mostly related just to modifications based on Teva's status as a finished dose manufacturer as opposed to an 9 API manufacturer and I'm happy to walk through those quickly 10 if you'd like to. 11 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Let's do it.

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MR. HARKINS: So the first issue is with respect to Request No. 8 and 9, and in the redline that we sent Mr. Slater over the weekend, we had asked to strike these two requests. Specifically, just because of the language used here referring to any entity or person other than Teva or its agents but known to Teva.

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And I'll specifically refer to the preceding requests, Nos. 1 and 2 and 5 and 6, where we have no objection to providing someone to testify on Teva's understanding of the cause of the contamination of the API and to the testing performed by Teva or its agents to evaluate the purity and contents of ZHP's API. Specifically, our language is just -- our objection is just to this language which we're not quite clear what to do with on Teva's knowledge as to testing that

1 might be performed or evaluations performed by other than Teva 2 or its agents. So those are two requests that we would ask to 3 strike. 4 But let me give you a hypothetical. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: 5 Suppose Teva has knowledge that one of its customers is 6 testing its product, it knows about the results of that 7 product, but that customer is not an agent. It's hard to contest that information wouldn't be relevant. Isn't 9 that what plaintiffs are getting at? So why wouldn't this be 10 relevant? If the company doesn't have that information, 11 that's fine, that's all they have to say. But if they do have 12 that information, why should it be off limits for discovery 13 purposes? 14 MR. HARKINS: Your Honor, to the extent it's in the 15 possession and knowledge of Teva or its agents, we believe 16 that would be covered by the first two requests in this 17 section under that hypothetical. 18 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I don't see the harm in keeping 19 this in, Counsel. We all know what the standard for a 20 30(b)(6) witness is. It's information that the company has, 21 and that's all this request asks for. It doesn't ask the 22 company to do an independent investigation to answer a general 23 question. It's only asking for information the company 24 already knows, so it stays in. 25 MR. HARKINS: Understood, Your Honor. The next

section which we have an ongoing objection to, is Request No. 19 through 25. And it may simply be that this is something that the parties could resolve as a result of continued negotiations. These requests refer to evaluation of Teva's solvents used during the finished dose manufacturing process and testing on solvents utilized in Teva's finished dose manufacturing process.

So we would ask that this be limited, in that while the solvents at issue relate to the API manufacturing process, there's no relationship between the alleged contamination and any of Teva's solvents utilized in Teva's finished dose manufacturing process, and similarly, the finished dose manufacturing processes, which are unrelated to testing.

Again, we acknowledge that testing of the incoming API and testing on Teva's finished dose, that might have demonstrated nitrosamines is relevant, but to the extent that these are discussing testing, Teva would have done on its own solvents or excipients that are not implicated in the formation of nitrosamine, we think these requests are properly directed to the API manufacturer and can be struck.

MR. SLATER: Your Honor, if that's what the witness says, then that's going to be a short section of the deposition to say we didn't use solvents to manufacture the finished dose, so we can cross that off the list. But it's certainly something we need to confirm and none of the other

1 finished dose manufacturers have objected to that request.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I agree, because if the -- if the company doesn't have this knowledge, that's all the witness has to say. And this topic, it goes to the whole 30(b)(6) deposition, is not asking the company to do an independent investigation to answer a question, it's only asking for information that the company knows about.

So if it doesn't know about it, that's a simple answer and that would be satisfactory.

So these topics stay in.

MR. HARKINS: Your Honor, the final item we have here is with respect to No. 32. This process development section covers a number of topics. We have no objection subject to some minor language modifications that I believe the parties have agreed to on 33 through 38.

32, however, requests us to provide a witness on the modifications with regard to the use of solvents and the tetrazole ring formation step in the manufacturing process for ZHP's API. The remaining topics all cover the evaluation that Teva would have performed in relation to that step and knowledge of the risks of formation as a result of the manufacturing processes, but the modifications and any discussions or input that would have gone into the actual decision to make those modifications is again properly directed to the API manufacturer.

MR. SLATER: Again, Your Honor, this is the information they have, so this question goes directly to what is the relationship between those modifications to the process, which we all know ZHP has conceded, they say that's why the -- why the contamination started, although we've now proven through the documents it actually started much earlier with a prior process.

But when they changed the process, that also was a cause, and we want to know what Teva knows about that.

Presumably, they went to ZHP and said, hey, dude, what happened here, for lack of a legal way to describe it, and how did this happen. And to the extent ZHP provided information to Teva or Teva got that information independently, for example, from the FDA or another regulatory agency, we certainly have a right to ask Teva about it.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Agreed. If the company has that knowledge, it's a relevant area of inquiry, and if their response is like the other topics we just dealt with, that it doesn't have responsive information, that's a perfectly sufficient answer. So this topic stays in.

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, this is Seth Goldberg.

Just to clarify for the record. ZHP has not conceded

anything, and Mr. Slater just stated that it has, so I just

want that to be clear for the record.

MR. HARKINS: For Teva, that direction is understood.

1 We appreciate that and that takes care of all of the remaining 2 objections that we don't believe are occupied by the global 3 resolutions. 4 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Great. So I think we've 5 dealt with all the 30(b)(6) depositions. 6 Mr. Slater, can you get us the final notices without 7 date, and we'll memorialize it in a Court order to indicate that these are Court-ordered topics and there shall be no 9 additional objections to them. 10 MR. SLATER: Absolutely, Your Honor. I will endeavor 11 to get them by tomorrow. It might be tough, but I will tell 12 you no later than Monday. Is that acceptable? 13 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Of course. I said a week. 14 MR. SLATER: Oh, I didn't even hear it. Sorry, Your 15 Honor, your comment before about the sandwich, I started 16 thinking about food, so I lost track, sorry. 17 (Laughter.) 18 MR. SLATER: Slicing the salami. 19 That's fine, Your Honor, we'll try to get it before 20 that, but thank you for the week. 21 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. No problem. If you need 22 more time, just let us know. 23 I think another important area is the addendums, but 24 how about -- does anyone have an objection if we take a break 25 to let everyone stretch their legs and use their facilities

1 addendums that cut across all of the documents so we can deal 2 with them upfront? 3 (Connection interference). 4 THE COURT: Let me do this, let me hang up and call 5 back. 6 This is Judge Schneider. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. 7 Back on the record. I think, Mr. Goldberg, you were about to 8 say something. 9 MR. GOLDBERG: I was, Your Honor. I was going to say 10 I think that there are some similarities between that again. 11 the two addendums. I think that in going through the Chinese 12 addendum may, you know, be beneficial in terms of the Indian 13 addendum, although I'm not as familiar with that addendum and 14 the specifics of the objections. I do know that the Indian 15 addendum has a provision regarding any protocol that, you 16 know, we will discuss to some extent in the Chinese addendum, 17 but that may be a different issue with respect to the Indian 18 addendum. 19 But I think we can cover some of this by walking 20 through the Chinese addendum and then if there's anything left 21 for the Indian addendum, it may not be much. 22 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: One of the things that concerns me 23 about the ZHP addendum is, I know there are issues particular 24 to China. I'd like to keep those client-specific issues to 25 the end, but if Mr. Slater agrees, I'm happy to tackle ZHP

1 first. 2 MR. SLATER: Your Honor, I'm fine with that. Only 3 because, ultimately, the Chinese addendum really is only for ZHP anyway. But I think it could go either way, but I'm fine 4 5 with starting as Mr. Goldberg had suggested. I don't think 6 that will cause a delay. 7 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Where's the best place to 8 look on these letters to --9 MR. GOLDBERG: Yes, Your Honor, in the letter that 10 defendants had, we picked up a discussion on the protocols on 11 Page 7 of the letter. Exhibit G of the defendants' exhibits is a chart that has the terms of the Chinese addendum, the 12 13 terms the defendants have proposed and the terms that 14 plaintiffs have proposed -- or the edits that plaintiffs have 15 proposed based on defendants' proposal. 16 So if Your Honor has -- okay. 17 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Go ahead, Mr. Goldberg. 18 MR. GOLDBERG: Yes, I was going to say, just so Your 19 Honor knows, that we originally filed the draft addendum a few 20 weeks ago at ECF 604-2. That original -- the terms of that 21 original addendum are set forth in this exhibit under 22 defendants' proposal. We just thought this was an easier way 23 for Your Honor to see the differences between the parties. 24 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Terrific. I have Exhibit G in 25 front of me, and why don't we just go down the issues one by

one.

MR. GOLDBERG: Right.

So the first issue where there's a difference, in the language the defendants have proposed we have -- in the underlying language, is language that we have proposed, that defendants -- plaintiffs would suggest to you to leave it.

And this first volution seems to us to be -- this language to us has been necessary, it's necessary for this addendum to reflect the voluntary nature of the deposition.

Plaintiffs have not taken any steps to secure the approval of the Chinese government to depose any witness in China, either in person or by video, notwithstanding having the core discovery documents since mid-July 2018 -- I'm sorry, 2019, and as a result, the only way a Chinese national can be deposed in this action is if a Chinese national agrees to leave China and go to another country to have the deposition conducted. And that agreement is necessary because were there to be a deposition in China without government approval, the Chinese witness and anybody participating in that deposition would be subject to criminal penalties under China law.

So we think it's -- we think it's essential to this addendum that the voluntary agreement of the witness be acknowledged, and we have proposed that language --

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Let me ask you a question. Let me ask you a question. Hypothetical, I don't know who plaintiff

wants to depose, but suppose they want to depose an officer or director of ZHP. That person is a resident of China, lives in China. Would the Court have authority to order that person to appear for deposition and if it means that person has to go to Hong Kong to be deposed, so be it.

So that deposition wouldn't be voluntary, it would be Court-ordered. So help me understand this. If plaintiff wants to take the deposition of a representative of a party defendant who, in the ordinary course of things, has to be produced in response to a notice of deposition, and if the person has to fly someplace to be deposed, it's not voluntary, is it?

MR. GOLDBERG: Well, Your Honor, I think there are a few different things at issue there. In the -- in the case of a Chinese national, the Court does not have jurisdiction over a Chinese employee of ZHP. So in that case, the Court would not be able to order an employee of ZHP to be deposed in this litigation.

The question -- so for those kind of fact witnesses, the only way they can be deposed in this litigation is if they agree to do so on a voluntary basis.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. That's why -- you may be right about that. I don't know. I'm not rendering an opinion, but that's why in my hypothetical, I made it easy. If plaintiff wants to depose an officer or director of the

company, if they serve that notice of deposition, plaintiffs do, ZHP is a party defendant in the United States District Court, don't they have an obligation to produce that witness for deposition even if that witness has to fly to Hong Kong and that wouldn't be voluntary.

So do we have two classes? If a guy or gal is on the production line, maybe, maybe not, they have to appear in response to a notice of deposition. So do we have two classes of witnesses and might there be witnesses who have to appear in response to the notice -- might there be witnesses who have to appear in response to a notice whether they like it or not.

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, I think a -- I think you have identified a possible distinction between the types of deponents. The -- I think with the individual fact witnesses, it seems clear that this Court does not have jurisdiction over a Chinese citizen to be a fact witness. Whether it has jurisdiction over ZHP, to order ZHP to have a 30(b)(6) representative testify is a different question, and, you know, it really gets to the jurisdiction of the Court over ZHP.

We have in Section A5 of this protocol, done what we had done in the past, which is to add language preserving the defense and the lack of personal jurisdiction. And, you know, the Court has not yet rendered an order that it has established a personal jurisdiction over ZHP. The parties have not yet briefed it. And as Judge Kugler mentioned

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    earlier, the parties will not be briefing personal
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    jurisdiction at this time. So we preserve that defense.
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             Our intention, of course, is to provide -- provide
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    corporate testimony pursuant to the 30(b)(6) notice.
    ZHP has agreed to provide -- ZHP is the only defendant that
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    has agreed to provide --
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             (Connection interference.)
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Maybe Mr. Goldberg could hang up
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    and call back in. Maybe that will help. That's what I did.
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             (Connection interference.)
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             MR. GOLDBERG: So I was saying, Your Honor, ZHP
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    has -- intends to provide 30(b)(6) testimony as to all of the
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             The issue of jurisdiction hasn't been decided yet, so
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    -- and an argument could be made that the Court lacks personal
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    jurisdiction, either specific or general over ZHP, but that
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    argument, if -- Judge Kugler has said that no party is going
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    to be briefing that at this time.
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             But in going back to this addendum, our view is that
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    at this point, anybody who is going to testify, involved in
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    leaving the country would be doing so on a voluntary basis.
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    You know, we can consider whether there should be some
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    language as to the 30(b)(6) witnesses in particular, you know,
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    and I don't really know how to straddle that distinction in
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    this, especially without the jurisdictional issues having been
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    heard, but it's certainly the case that for the individual
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1 fact witnesses, their testimony would be on a voluntary basis. 2 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: One more question and then we'll 3 turn it over to Mr. Slater. 4 If the plaintiffs disagree with you and believe that jurisdiction is appropriate, if this language is included in 5 6 the protocol, are you asking plaintiffs to concede the point? 7 I mean, I suppose the plaintiffs wouldn't have an objection if it said something to the effect that ZHP is preserving its 9 right to object to jurisdiction and ZHP believes it is 10 producing its witnesses voluntary. But I suppose plaintiffs' 11 objection -- and we'll hear from Mr. Slater -- is that you're 12 asking plaintiffs to admit that when they may not admit it, 13 they may disagree with you. 14 MR. GOLDBERG: Well, I think that that -- that 15 language, I think that language may be, you know, may be the 16 compromise between A.1 and A.5 which plaintiffs have not --17 not objected to, and, in fact, they've accepted, if you look 18 on the next page of this chart at the top. 19 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Right. 20 MR. GOLDBERG: They accepted this language. 21 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Right. 22 MR. GOLDBERG: And they've acknowledged to the extent 23 otherwise preserved. 24 I think the most important piece of this, Judge, and 25 just stepping back for a moment, is the fact that this

addendum is more than just, you know, simple terms that affect these litigants in this case, and, you know, giving -- given the burden that these Chinese witnesses, whether 30(b)(6) or individual, are going to have to endure, so to speak, in terms of leaving their country, traveling to another country, potentially during a global pandemic. That what we're trying to do with this addendum and what we think is reasonable to do, is to provide the right safeguards that will allow these witnesses to participate in this case with an understanding that their rights are being safeguarded as well.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Slater?

MR. SLATER: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you. I would like to give just sort of an overall general observation which is I think that this issue doesn't even belong in the addendum, and I think that there's been a little bit of overlap between what this is, which our understanding is, like the main protocol is that it's a functional document in terms of the mechanics of how this is going to be accomplished.

There should be some sort of an order or a legal brief or a place for the parties to editorialize their positions on issues. So I think that that's just my first observation, which would simplify a lot of what we have here, because it's not necessary to have that in the addendum. That's a separate issue. This is the addendum for if somebody is deposed here, here's how it's going to work. So I think

that can simplify things.

We have a couple concerns. One, counsel during our meet and confer, we said on this particular point, is there any witness who we put in our initial group of priority witnesses who is telling you they refuse to be deposed, and the answer was, we don't know, and you're going to see, that's going to be sort of a recurrent theme on a lot of the provisions in here which are put in sort of as placeholders. But there's obviously consequences to us agreeing to --

(Connection interference.)

MR. SLATER: And we certainly as plaintiffs, do not want to agree, as Your Honor enunciated, that anybody's deposition is voluntary, certainly anybody who is a 30(b)(6) witness and anyone who is a managing agent, an officer, a director, executive, et cetera, would not be, quote unquote, voluntary, and there -- you know, if counsel wants to set aside the issue about lower level employees, we don't have to argue that today.

So for those reasons, that's why we wanted to strike this provision. To some extent, we just left it in as plain vanilla. It governs the depositions of people who reside in Mainland China, because that's what the addendum is for, as opposed to having some editorialized comment about, you know, whether a witness is doing so voluntarily.

If Your Honor is inclined towards your recommendation

to have the language saying, this is the ZHP position, you know, then we know we'd obviously have to have language that says the plaintiffs disagree and dispute this and the issue is not determined by this addendum in any way.

I suppose that would be an answer, but what we don't want ultimately is issues like, you know, voluntary to hang out there, because then what happens in February when one of these depositions is supposed to happen and three days before or two days before, we find out, oh, this person has chosen not to be deposed and it's not going to go forward, and you have no recourse. So that was our, you know, our main concerns on this.

So, you know, first suggestion -- suggestion would be just to adopt our language which is neutral.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Goldberg, I can't ask plaintiffs to include language making an admission that they disagree with. Plaintiffs disagree that it's voluntary. I can't ask plaintiffs to give up that argument. I mean, I suppose if you want a legal determination, it would require a motion and briefing.

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Then it's an admission that plaintiffs don't want to make.

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, you know, the point is that it is voluntary, and whether that -- these ten words are

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in there or not, won't change the legal issue, you know. fact of the matter is, that at a minimum, the fact witnesses who choose to be deposed in this case are doing just that, and the important part is that the Court acknowledges that these plaintiffs are voluntarily participating in this case if they choose to be deposed and provide, you know, the requisite safeguard for their participation. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Goldberg, I can't make that determination in a vacuum. I don't know who -- hold on. don't know -- hold on. Let's put this issue to bed. The Court's position is, if the plaintiff wants to include language that ZHP takes the position that the appearance is voluntary, that's fine, and plaintiffs disagree, and I'm not going to ask or order the plaintiffs to make an admission that they don't agree with, and I'm not going to make a legal determination about whether a particular witness is voluntary or not, without knowing who the witness is, what their position is, et cetera, et cetera. So that's the Court's ruling. If ZHP wants to include language that it takes the position that it's voluntary, that's fine. After that, the plaintiffs disagree on that, that's the -- that's my ruling. Next. MR. GOLDBERG: Understood. So the next provision that the parties have a dispute on is -- and they kind of go together in a way are A3 and A4

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and this may have -- well, I think the Indian issue is a little bit different, but we have proposed language that in these depositions of Chinese nationals, it's not just the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the Federal Rules of Evidence and the New Jersey rules that apply.

Certainly those rules govern the conduct of the -- of counsel, and those rules are applicable to the testimony and how it would be used, but there are other laws at play in

how it would be used, but there are other laws at play in terms of these depositions. Had plaintiff chosen to, they could have, through The Hague Convention, filed a letter of request and under Chinese Civil Procedure Law, sought a deposition of a Chinese national. The Chinese nationals are -- and this is particularly important, and it really is, you know, a discussion in and of itself. But it is particularly important that this addendum acknowledge that the Chinese witnesses are subject to Chinese privacy and state secret laws, and we think it's absolutely essential that this addendum make clear that the Chinese witness be able to assert an objection under Chinese State Secret Law, or I'd be happy to expound on that, Your Honor, if it would be helpful, you know, in sort of where we are in terms of this litigation with the Chinese state secret issues. But, you know, and maybe -maybe remind the Court where we were on this issue back in December.

But in December of 2019, when Your Honor was ruling

on the macro issues and on the scope of discovery, at the hearing on December 18th, Your Honor was very clear that the state secret concern -- that the state secret concern is a very important concern in this case, and that at the appropriate time, we would handle the state secret issues.

I don't think we're at that appropriate time yet, because there hasn't been testimony about a state secret. But what we want to do is preserve their right, that should plaintiffs ask a question at a deposition that could elicit state secret testimony, and we think it's very unlikely and again, I can expound on some of the nuances of the state secret law. I just don't know how deep Your Honor wants to go into that right now, but I'm happy to.

But what we would like to do is be able to preserve the right for the witness to assert a state secret objection which could then be heard just like a privilege objection by Your Honor, and that's why I've have incorporated these laws into these provisions.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Goldberg, here's a thought that occurs to me. I understand your position perfectly, but I think you're asking for inclusion of language as an admission that plaintiffs don't want to make. What I would suggest we do to put this issue to bed is, one, to get the protocol done, you can just say same as last paragraph, ZHP's position is such and such, plaintiffs disagree. Why don't -- at the end

1 of this process, we're going to have a list of issues that are2 going to be disputed.

One is to what extent does the Chinese State Secret blah, blah, blah, apply to these depositions. Let's tee that up in a motion and before the depositions are taken, let's get those issues decided so that when you eventually take these depositions, it can go relatively smoothly.

But what occurs to me is, these issues are very, very complicated. If plaintiff concedes the point, great, no problem. I doubt that's going to happen, and the Court is not prepared to make a legal determination at this time without the benefit of hearing the party's positions on this.

Whoever -- if you're not speaking, could you put your phone on mute, please. There's a lot of background noise.

Someone is doing the dishes, I think. Thank you.

So, Mr. Goldberg, what about if at the end of when we get through these -- all these points, I mean, this would be a perfect example of something to tee up in a motion. To what extent does the Chinese State Secret law operate to be applicable to these depositions, and what may or may not be asserted. You've got --

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, I don't think that's a -I think that approach could work. I mean, I think, in fact,
you know, right now, there's neither a motion to compel the
testimony or a motion for protective order on the State Secret

issue.

The time really is if somebody were to be asked a question that would elicit the testimony. But I'm open to trying to brief the issue before the depositions get started. You know, I -- and, you know, I think the important thing is, I guess if Your Honor were to make a ruling that a witness could assert a State Secret objection, that could then be resolved by the Court, you know, they would need -
JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Does plaintiff agree to that? If plaintiff agrees to that, I'm perfectly fine with that. If Mr. Slater agrees to that, just like a normal privilege objection, that would be fine.

Mr. Slater, what do you say?

MR. SLATER: The ask is to have us agree that in real time, we could get down a line of questioning and have a lawyer from China standing in the deposition room directing the witness not to answer questions. I think that's probably not a good idea because of the issues with timing and cost and everything else we're talking about with these depositions. You know, the law, we said in the Schindler Elevator Corp. case is very clear that the burden is on ZHP or any foreign entity to show that these foreign laws are production and I think Your Honor's inclination to tee this up, we would prefer to have it teed up in December and have it disposed of because we need to have it out of the way. It's just -- I think it

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1 would be much too disruptive to have that happen in the middle 2 of a deposition.

And I can tell you, Your Honor, for context, we asked Mr. Goldberg and his team during the meet and confer a specific question. We said, well, is there any Chinese privacy or State Secret issue implicated so far by any of the issues as to which we've been taking discovery, or as to any of the deposition topics, and the answer was, no, and, in fact, there's not been one document either withheld or redacted based on any such contention or any reliance on any foreign law, for that matter.

So, you know, again, we were certainly not comfortable just leaving it hanging out there because of the difficulty that we'll face if it just pops up in real time. Because as Your Honor just said, it's better to get these things out of the way so the depositions go smoothly, much like you've done with this Rule 34 requests in the past, much as you've just done with the Rule 30(b)(6) notices, so that the issues are all vetted, there's no more objections and now we just go forward.

So we're certainly not going to agree to this language being included because we don't think that ZHP will ever be able to meet its burden to implicate Chinese law, and for the reasons stated, we're very concerned leaving that out there as some abstract threat of dropping in at some point in

1 time later. 2 MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, this is Seth Goldberg 3 again. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Last word, last word. 4 MR. GOLDBERG: Yeah, first of all, I -- Mr. Slater 5 6 has mischaracterized what was discussed in the meet and 7 confer. ZHP is likely to provide the plaintiffs with a log of documents that are -- have been withheld for state secret. 9 The time for that has not yet occurred, and we expect that any 10 announcement of such documents is going to be very, very 11 smooth relative to the overall production, and it raises the 12 very issue which Your Honor noted back in December, which is 13 that if there is a state secret issue, you should put it on a 14 privilege log or a state secret log and the Court will address 15 it when it's ripe. 16 The thing that -- unlike a document, if we're going 17 into depositions, we don't know what questions plaintiffs are 18 going to ask, but if plaintiffs ask a question that somehow 19 involved the Chinese government and we've identified these in 20 our brief, that we think would fall within the state secret 21 rule, the plaintiff, the witness should not be subject to 22 criminal penalties, because they have to provide that 23 testimony in the deposition. 24 We think that is an exceedingly narrow area, so much 25 so that I expect that if we produce a log with state secret

documents, it will be less than one percent of the overall production, but it -- given that narrowness, there would be no burden for having a Chinese lawyer present at the deposition to assist us in providing counsel to the witness.

But we can raise that issue in a brief before the depositions or during the depositions.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Yeah, it may be that a specific answer can't be given until we know what the specific question is, but we might be able to give guidance on what is a state secret and who can assert it. I think we have to tee it up in a motion. It's a complicated issue, Chinese State Secret laws, so I can't make a ruling without knowing what the law is.

So I'm not going to ask plaintiffs to make an admission they don't agree to. If you want to say, this is your -- ZHP's position, great, and plaintiffs disagree with it, but at the end of -- when we get through all these issues, we'll probably have a list of legal issues that we may be able to give guidance on and a motion should be filed and we'll do the best we can to give guidance on it.

One issue would be the State Secret, I guess -- I don't know if there's going to be an issue about whether The Hague applies, but we can add that to the list, and I think it's better to try and get some direction before the deps, rather than kicking the can down the road and -- you know,

1 these depositions are going to be hard enough. To run into 2 all these problems at a deposition would be incredibly 3 unwieldy. 4 So I'd like to see if we could give some direction to the parties before the deposition that would make things go a 5 bit smoother. One way to do that is to tee up some of these 6 7 legal issues in a motion. 8 So let's go through the list and at the end of the list, we'll have the list of the issues and we'll decide who's 9 10 going to file the motion or not. 11 MR. GOLDBERG: That makes sense, Your Honor. I think 12 that makes a lot of sense. 13 I think in light of that, I'm just looking at -- if 14 we can jump down. I think we can -- on these legal issues, I 15 think we can now skip to T10, which has to do with the 16 location of the depositions. And now I quess we're on more of 17 these practical terms now. 18 Our language -- the defendants' language -- and 19 defendants have proposed that the Chinese nationals be deposed 20 in Hong Kong, which is by and large the general practice of 21 deposing Chinese nationals is to do their depositions in Hong 22 Kong for a number of reasons. One, you know, of many 23 countries that are, you know, that will accept Chinese 24 nationals, Hong Kong has -- is the most permissive or the 25 least restrictive with respect to travel permits. The Chinese

1 national can come in and out. They don't need a visa. 2 they do is they get what's called a Hong Kong travel permit. 3 Two, it's relatively close, although it's still quite a trip. It's a ten-hour trip from ZHP's facilities. They have to take 4 5 a train to Shanghai and fly to Hong Kong and it's a ten-hour 6 trip in total, and that's just to be -- just to take a 7 videoconference. 8 So we have proposed Hong Kong, and plaintiffs, they 9 haven't objected to Hong Kong, but what they have proposed is 10 adding language that we should try to choose a -- we should 11 try to use a location that causes the least difficulties with 12 the differences in time zone. Of course, Hong Kong is 12 13 hours ahead, plaintiffs' counsel presumably are going to be 14 taking depositions from the U.S. 15 There's -- plaintiffs have not proposed an 16 alternative location that is as easy for the witnesses to 17 enter, that is within, you know, a reasonable travel time, 18 and, you know, of course we have the COVID restrictions to 19 contend with as well. 20 Right now, Chinese nationals probably can't get into 21 most countries around the world. 22 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Slater? 23 MR. SLATER: Thank you, Your Honor. I think that the 24 -- that this issue really ties together with the issues just a 25 little further down on the chart that counsel provided you.

And if you look at the C12 issue with our proposed language on behalf of the plaintiffs, I think that the two go together in this sense. We were very concerned about all of the difficulties we were hearing, and there are practical difficulties with deposing witnesses in Hong Kong, especially where it's not reasonable to assume that people will be traveling there from the United States. I don't even think you can at this point, that's what I was told by somebody last week.

But to be able to work out the language that we propose in C12, it gives us, I think, more of what counsel referred to in their brief as the flexibility and you'll see

If the deposition starts at 9:00 a.m. in Hong Kong, that's 9:00 p.m. on the east coast. To do the deposition in one sitting would be difficult for anybody other than a long-haul truck driver or a late night DJ.

we actually use that term, flexibility and compromise, and

this is what I'm talking about.

It would be rough and probably not reasonable and it wouldn't be reasonable to flip the times and start at 9:00 p.m. in Hong Kong and ask a witness to do that overnight. But what we suggested to the defense and it sounds like we have agreement on the concept, is to break up the depositions, for witnesses deposed by video in Hong Kong, so that they can be done in chunks to allow the depositions to be conducted

1 with people not taking the questioning in the middle of the 2 night. And, you know, so that's where we think we're 3 4 ultimately going to get to, and we think that's a reasonable method to accomplish the depositions, taking into account the 5 distance and the time zone differences. 6 7 The language that we asked to have included, I don't 8 think should be controversial. If we agree to another 9 location that maybe more convenient, that's wonderful. If we 10 can try to do it and try to find a more convenient location as 11 time goes forward, I would think that would be something we 12 would endeavor to do. I can say for the record, plaintiffs 13 certainly don't expect the Chinese nationals, who are deposed 14 pursuant to this protocol, those that, you know, that may have 15 the discretion to agree or not agree to be deposed in certain 16 locations, because I don't want to waive our position that they were produced and that we can compel --17 18 (Connection interference.) 19 MR. SLATER: -- they can't because of COVID, 20 understood, and if we can do these depositions in smaller 21 chunks through Hong Kong, then that probably alleviates most 22 of our or all of our concerns because then we're dealing with 23 the reasonable fact that some people are going to need a break 24 from depositions at midnight or so and move to the next day. 25 So I hope that's helpful, because I think that

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that's -- we really worked hard on our side certainly and I think that ZHP has agreed to the concept. We can't agree on a number of hours for each block. I'm not sure that that needs to be agreed today or put in the addendum. I think reasonableness should guide both sides, but, you know, hopefully, that gives the Court a little bit more of a wider view of what we're dealing with, and hopefully, a good look at what we think is a good solution to what looked like a very difficult problem with the time zone difference. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Let me --MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Let me just finish, Mr. Goldberg. I think we should go with the defendants' proposal and not include the additional language that plaintiffs want. a feeling that as time goes on and we know who's going to be deposed, you'll be able to work out these issues, but in order to move this along, I think it's premature to make a ruling as to whether to break up a deposition, whether to do the deposition in the Philippines or some other place. Hong Kong is the default setting. If the parties agree to do it in another place, that's fine. Plaintiffs, you can file an application for good cause showing why a deposition shouldn't be in Hong Kong or why there should be two sessions instead of one session, but we have to move this along, and prima facie defendants'

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    language is appropriate and reasonable and we'll go with it.
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             MR. SLATER: I'll add a caveat to that.
                                                      I'm sorry,
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    Your Honor, one caveat. The agreed-to-be-deposed language is
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    still in that provision, so I would ask that that be removed
    or held by, you know, biding the time when Your Honor rules on
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    that issue, if it actually gets briefed.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: That's right, because we don't want
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    to make that admission. Residing in Mainland China who is
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    deposed in this action, blah, blah, blah. Let's do it that
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    way, Mr. Goldberg, okay?
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             MR. GOLDBERG: That's fair.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Next issue.
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             MR. GOLDBERG: So the next issue is about cost, and I
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    think we'll -- I think what you wanted to do, we had proposed
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    that the parties should split the cost of these depositions,
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    the travel time, for the witnesses. Defendants will -- will
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    agree to bear a cost for a reasonable number of depositions
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    and we think we're going to have a reasonable number in this
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    case, but we just wanted to, you know, preserve the point that
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    we may come back to the Court to ask for costs if the number
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    becomes unreasonable.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Goldberg, I think it's
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    appropriate that you preserve your right to apply for costs.
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    I don't think it's appropriate to include a provision unless
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    the plaintiffs agree that they're going to share the costs.
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1 When and if the time comes that you make your application, 2 we'll deal with it. 3 MR. GOLDBERG: Thank you, Your Honor. 4 So the next point is about the length of the 5 deposition, and our proposal was that the deposition be seven 6 hours, it would be in accordance with Hong Kong time or really 7 the time where the witness is located, but we expect as Your 8 Honor pointed -- pointed out, that Hong Kong would be the 9 default, and that the deposition would be conducted, you know, 10 over the course of a seven-hour day, but beginning Hong Kong 11 time, and there could be, you know, the question increased the 12 time if there are technical problems from the videoconference 13 connectivity, which we expect there may be, or other technical 14 problems due to the Zoom or due to whatever technology the 15 parties are going to use. 16 You know, we had proposed, and we'll certainly 17 discuss with plaintiffs the possibility of having, you know, 18 instead of a seven-hour day of 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Hong 19 Kong time, you know, two consecutive five-hour days starting 20 at 7:00 a.m. Hong Kong time, so that lawyers in the U.S. can 21 be taking the deposition in the evening U.S. time. 22 So we're happy to try to work that out with

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JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Didn't we already address this issue, about the length of depositions, and there was a dispute as to whether it should be increased by 50 percent or 75 percent, if there's -- and the Court ruled 75 percent? MR. GOLDBERG: Yeah, that's a little bit of a different issue. I mean, this is really talking about the length of the deposition before you add on the translation time. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Oh, seven hours. MR. GOLDBERG: Right. And this is just proposing that that seven hours start as provided under the federal rules at the time zone in the location where the witness resides. So we can discuss -- I don't think Your Honor needs to rule on C12 at this point. I think we can discuss this with plaintiffs if they would like to, you know, continue the discussion about the time of the depositions. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Fine with me. MR. GOLDBERG: The next issue, I think this really ties in with C15 to some degree, and it has to do with the number of times a Chinese witness would be expected to travel from China to Hong Kong for a deposition, and, you know, we think that there should only be one -- that the plaintiff should be limited to -- absent good cause, that the expectation should be that a witness will only travel to Hong Kong one time.

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Isn't that implicit, though? JUDGE SCHNEIDER: have to say that explicitly? Isn't it the general practice -in fact, I think there's a federal rule on this, that says you can't depose a witness a second time and you have to apply to the Court for approval. Why do we have to put this in there? I mean, hypothetically, suppose the witness gets sick and has to leave early, he'll come back a second day. The way the language is written now, he doesn't -- he or she doesn't come back, but I know there's a federal rule on this that says a person could only be deposed once without leave of Court. So --MR. GOLDBERG: Okay, that's --Why do we need something in there? JUDGE SCHNEIDER: MR. GOLDBERG: We can -- we can live with that, you know, understanding, Your Honor. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: It would be up to -- if the plaintiff wants to depose, it would be up to the plaintiff to make an application. MR. GOLDBERG: Right. So if we could go down to C15, that's really the next big issue and I think this is an important issue. This really ties into what Judge Kugler was saying at the beginning of the day, which is, of course, the COVID-19 has impacted everyone around the world. There are -- of course, due to the surge,

we're seeing the kinds of shutdowns and quarantines that we
saw earlier this year, and that's occurring in China again,
both intra-China. So now intra-China just like in the U.S.,
it's harder to travel around China due to COVID. They had
relaxed intra-China travel over the summer, but just like us,
those restrictions are going back up.

But more importantly, Chinese nationals, right now,
were we to have these depositions, a Chinese national

were we to have these depositions, a Chinese national traveling to Hong Kong would have to quarantine for 14 days in Hong Kong and 14 days upon their return to China. So a total of 28 days of quarantine for the deposition. And, you know, we think there's plenty of support for the notion that Courts can be flexible in terms of scheduling with respect to COVID-19.

This Court has already been very clear that, you know, it will be and it acknowledges that COVID-19 is good cause for making changes to the schedule.

But I thought, you know, it's important to point out here that -- and this gets to some of the things we discussed about the number of witnesses and who will be deposed and we'll be discussing this more with plaintiffs. But plaintiffs have proposed that 15 Chinese witnesses be deposed in their individual fact witness capacity, and, in our view, we think we could designate five or -- five to seven of those witnesses to cover the entire ZHP 30(b)(6) notice.

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And our proposal or our thinking would be that those 30(b)(6) witnesses would not be deposed until the COVID-19 travel restrictions have been lifted, because it seems to be unfair to expect Chinese nationals, even as 30(b)(6) witnesses, to travel to Hong Kong during the global pandemic, to be out of work for 28 days, to run the risk of contracting COVID-19 or to transmitting it to their family members, and we don't see any real urgency. Now, of course, this is not -- this is not to delay the deposition, but if these depositions of these five to seven witnesses needed to wait a few months until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted or relaxed in a material way, you know, we think that that makes a lot of sense, especially given that counsel wouldn't, as they said, they wouldn't travel to a different country under these circumstances, and I don't see how this Court should expect witnesses to do -- to travel under these conditions. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Goldberg, you and everyone else in this case can be a hundred percent certain that this Court will never put someone's health and safety at risk for a deposition in the case. That goes for everybody. If we put this language in there, it just invites fights and troubles. We don't even know who's going to be deposed and when. Why don't we wait to see if there's going to be a

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problem in the future and we'll deal with it. Simple as that.
When plaintiff finally decides who they want to depose, if
there's this quarantine situation in China, 14 days plus 14
days, we'll deal with it. But to put that in right now is
just -- it's just buying trouble. It's inevitably going to
lead to a fight when there may not be a need to do it.
         So my ruling is, let's not put that language in
there, but rest assured, that if someone's health or safety or
welfare is at risk, they're not going to be deposed.
as that.
         That goes for everybody.
         MR. GOLDBERG: That's fair, Your Honor. That should
-- I appreciate that.
         JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
                           It's on the record. Yeah, I mean,
there's no way, there's zero chance that this Court is going
to put anyone's health and safety and welfare at risk for
deposition. It just won't happen.
         But let's avoid a fight now and see down the road if
we're going to have an issue with it.
         That's what I would say. Any other issues?
         MR. GOLDBERG: I'm just looking at the -- I'm looking
at the chart. The next issue, 16 I think is covered under the
legal issue, would be part of the legal issues with regard to
the laws of the other country.
         Same with D17.
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             D18 is an important issue. I just wanted to alert
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    the Court to it because it falls --
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Leave it in. Leave it in, Mr.
    Goldberg. That's perfectly reasonable.
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                           Thank you, Your Honor.
             MR. GOLDBERG:
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             And C19 is a particularly sensitive issue, one that,
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    you know, we're sensitive about raising, and it's also raised
    in the Indian addendum. We think it should be beyond question
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    that there should be no disparagement regarding Chinese or
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    Indian or any other countries' heritage or culture or
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    government, and we think it's important to have this
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    explicitly in.
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             We all know how depositions can get heated at times.
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    We all know, you know, that there are possibilities for saying
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    things that could cross the line regrettably. That's happened
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    a few times in this case already, and what we don't want is to
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    have any kind of comment disrupt the testimony. And it could
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    be, you know -- it should just be explicit that Chinese
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    heritage, culture, traditions, the witness's fluency in
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    English, you know, should really be off limits, and we don't
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    think this is a controversial position. This is something
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    that all parties should agree to.
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                               Is this really going to be an issue
             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
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    in this case?
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             MR. GOLDBERG: You know, Your Honor, unfortunately, I
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think it can be. And remember, we live in a society here where, you know, we've had our highest level, you know, make some not very flattering comments about the Chinese, and unfortunately, that does filter down, and we have had some comments in this case already that would be deemed offensive by the Chinese. MR. SLATER: Your Honor, since it was already addressed in the -- I'm sorry, Your Honor. I was going to say, can we just JUDGE SCHNEIDER: include something to the effect that all counsel shall -- all counsel are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner and, you know, they can make application to the Court for appropriate -- I don't know, but --MR. SLATER: You know, Judge, it's already addressed in the deposition protocol. The main deposition protocol already addresses the issue. THE COURT: Contains sort of this general civility --MR. SLATER: Yes, don't be offensive. Yes, I don't have it in front of me, but it has language to the effect of, you know, don't say offensive, disparaging things. certainly, I think that covers it, and I don't know that we have to go down the rabbit hole figuring out how someone's fluency in English could be a reasonable thing to bring up. Not in a disparaging way, but in a fact-based way. just not necessary.

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MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, I don't see why it would be controversial to have the specific language that counsel shouldn't make comments regarding the Chinese government, Chinese heritage, or Chinese culture or tradition which could be very offensive if taken the wrong way. There's no reason that any of these comments -there's no reason to comment on any of this with a witness, but, you know, because we're -- and it's, I think particularly important given that we are going to be in a Zoom setting where I may be in one place, my witness may be in another, counsel may -- and for plaintiffs may be in another, and if a statement is made, it's very hard to even, you know, work with your witness to try to explain, you know, and try to, you know, sort of do damage control and could be highly disruptive to the deposition.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Well, here's what I say. I'm not going to order that this language be included in the addendum, but I am very confident that Judge Kugler and I are on the same page, that it's completely unacceptable for anyone to act uncivilly or unprofessional, and to fail to respect the customs and practices of someone who may be from a foreign country, and that the Court will have zero patience that -- if anyone breaches this. I don't think it's going to happen with this case.

I'm not going to order this infringement on someone's

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first amendment rights, but I think this is a nonissue. not going to happen, and there's already a provision, according to Mr. Slater, that parties have to act civilly and professionally. But you can rest assured that if that does occur, it will be addressed harshly. There's absolutely no excuse for that on all sides. I don't think it's going to happen, given that counsel in this case, and I think we're just buying trouble if we include this language in there. So I'm not going to order it to be included. MR. GOLDBERG: Thank you, Your Honor. The last point on this has to do with exhibits that might contain a foreign language that would be potentially shown to a witness. We had initially tried to have a process where the parties would exchange those translated documents before the deposition, so they could agree upon what the documents say. And in particular, with the Chinese, just as with the exhibits, and also at the deposition, the need to have two There are often differences in how the Chinese translators. language is interpreted, and we think that it's important that going into the deposition, the parties are on the same page as to what a document that's written in a foreign language says

before the witness testifies about the document.

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Document 643

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different proposal, which was that they could provide translations to us or the counsel that would be -- deposing counsel, and this is most likely plaintiffs, would provide the translated -- could provide the translated documents if they chose to before the deposition, but didn't have to, and, you know, I appreciate the concern that plaintiffs have that they don't want to share with defendants the depositions (sic) that they intend to show the witness. They don't want the witness to be able to be prepared without that document, I understand that. The challenge here is that we don't want to use deposition time to debate about the language in an exhibit. And so, you know, we'd propose two alternatives. We shared one with -- we shared it with plaintiffs this morning, although we haven't had a chance to discuss it. Maybe we'll get to agreement on this. But what we propose is that either the parties exchange these kinds of exhibits with enough time to resolve any dispute, at least two days in advance of the deposition, or that -- that the time that it takes to debate about these issues at a deposition, if the documents had not been provided beforehand should count as deposition time.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Slater?

MR. SLATER: Yes, Your Honor. You know, for obvious reasons, we can't agree to a provision requiring us to preview

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the documents that we may use during the deposition, nor can we can agree to a provision that requires us to go through a process to agree to the translations prior to the deposition. So our provision made that -- I mean, that we can choose to do voluntarily in our -- you know, if we choose to do it, we can If we choose not to, we can take the deposition and go forward. But it's unworkable to force us to preview every foreign language document we're going to be using in a deposition prior. You know, for obvious reasons, we just can't agree to something like that. If they want to discuss a little more of our language, we're fine with that, but, you know, the language we were sent today essentially -- to defense counsel during these hearings this morning, and I'm reading this as requiring us to provide all documents we're going to use in the deposition in advance if they have foreign language in it, which, of course, we cannot agree to. MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Go ahead. MR. GOLDBERG: I mean, the thing is, that if we don't have agreement as to what the documents say, at least a few days in advance, so that we can raise with the Court any dispute about differing translations. The testimony may not be accurate, counsel for the witness may not be able to properly provide counsel as to, you know, the deposition,

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    object if necessary. We need to be able to understand what
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    the document says and how it's being interpreted.
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             And if there are differing translations, that's going
    to be a problem for everyone. And if counsel doesn't want to
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    share the documents with us ahead of time, then it should be
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    very clear that any time spent having to translate the
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    document during the deposition would be counted as deposition
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    time.
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             MR. SLATER: Your Honor, there is no such provision
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    in the Benicar litigation which Your Honor is very familiar
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    with, where we deposed --
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             (Connection interference)
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             MR. SLATER: I'm sure there's a bunch of people
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    hoping I won't be able to dial back in. Should I do that
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    right now, Your Honor?
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I think that would be helpful.
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             MR. SLATER: I will do it right now.
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             (Mr. Slater dials back into the call.)
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             MR. SLATER: Hello, Your Honor, I'm back. Is that
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    better for everybody? I'll be short-winded.
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             In the Benicar litigation, we had no such provision,
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    we deposed 19 or 20 Japanese-speaking witnesses through
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    translators with actually no disputes and no problems. So we
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    just intend to proceed as we did there. This provision, for
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    all the reasons stated, would be unfair and prejudicial to
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1 plaintiffs.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I'm not going to order plaintiffs to reveal its work product before the deposition. We're going to leave for another day and not include in the order a provision about how to count time. If it's a problem, you'll deal with it. The Court will deal with it at the appropriate time, but I think it's an issue better left for the future.

It wasn't a problem in *Benicar*, it seemed to go smoothly. We certainly didn't go through this type of argument when we did the protocol in that case. I don't know why we're doing it in this case, but be that as it may, I think we're just buying trouble if we put the provision in there now.

So the Court's ruling is, don't include it.

Next.

MR. SLATER: Judge, that's the end of the Chinese — the language addendum of the Chinese nationals. I was going to suggest that in light of the length of the hearing and the detail with which we addressed the Chinese addendum, that perhaps the parties can meet and confer further on the Indian and the other addendum, with an eye towards trying to finalize them all at the same time, if that is acceptable to the Court and to the defense.

THE COURT: It's acceptable to me if Mr. Goldberg agrees. I think our next call is the 13th, so we could put

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    the issue of the addendums on the agenda for the 13th.
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             MR. GOLDBERG: That's fair, Your Honor.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Hopefully, the issues if any are
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    left will be narrowed.
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             MR. SLATER: Will that conclude the legal issues that
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    Your Honor wants to tee up at this point?
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Oh, good question.
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             Well, actually -- I'm sorry, I was in the wrong
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            Actually, the next Valsartan call is December 9th, not
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    the -- I was in January. December 9th is the next Valsartan
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    call. So we'll tee it up for that.
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             Mr. Goldberg, apart from the State Secret issue, what
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    other issues do you think is appropriate to tee up in a
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    motion? Do you want to tee up the number of depositions or
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    you'll work that out? Are there Hague Convention issues,
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    anything else we need to deal with of a legal matter?
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             MR. SLATER: I do think the number of depositions is
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    something that we all need to tee up and maybe we'll be able
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    to make progress in terms of meet and confers. I think that
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    also goes with respect to the 30(b)(6) notice.
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             While, you know, Your Honor made progress in terms of
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    approving the topics, we haven't talked yet about how much
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    time would be allotted for the 30(b)(6) depositions, and
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    whether there should be limits on the time for those, given
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    the extensive number of topics and notices in these
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    depositions. So we would have that issue.
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             I think that there are issues as to the applicability
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    of The Hague Convention --
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
                               Okay.
             MR. GOLDBERG: -- that defendants want to raise, that
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    could be it.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay.
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             MR. GOLDBERG: I think December 9th may be ambitious.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: No, I think that's too early, I
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    agree, that's too early. What I was going to maybe think of
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    is December 23rd before Christmas to tee up all those issues
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    before -- in a motion filed before Christmas.
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             MR. GOLDBERG: That makes sense to us, Your Honor.
14
             MR. SLATER: That makes sense.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
                               Yeah.
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             MR. SLATER: Your Honor, one thing.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Go ahead, Mr. Slater.
             MR. SLATER: I was just going to say, on the number
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19
    of -- the number of deponents, I think at the end,
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    Mr. Goldberg said that it may be premature. I think it is,
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    and I know from my discussions with some of the defendants,
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    they didn't want to have that discussion because at this
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    point, there is no reason to believe we're going to have a
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    dispute on that, and we're certainly going to work
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    cooperatively to try to avoid that being an issue, for all the
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reasons that have been discussed for months.

So I think that arguing over arbitrary limits will become very sticky and probably not necessary, since the numbers will be different, probably per defendant, and giving a bright line on that is probably work that we don't need to do. I think we should wait and see if there's a problem and then address it then.

MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, this is Seth Goldberg. I think that should be on the schedule for December 23rd. It would incentivize the parties to reach an agreement, because, you know, we think it's important to have limits -- it's important for our clients to understand, you know, who's going to be deposed, when they're going to be deposed, and what the disruption to their business is going to be in terms of the number of depositions.

JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I agree with you, Mr. Goldberg. If

-- and I think it's important. Plaintiff, if I'm picking a

number out of the sky, I'm not ruling, of course, but, you

know, if you know you have -- pick a number -- ten

depositions, strategically, you're going to decide who to

depose and who not to depose. If you go into the process

thinking you have an unlimited number, you may be prejudiced

at the end of the day.

So I think it's in everyone's best -- and with the proviso that if there's good cause, you'll get more, but I do

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    think there should be a presumptive limit.
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             MR. SLATER: Well, there's a --
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Go ahead.
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             MR. SLATER: I am very sorry, Your Honor, for the
    delay, I didn't mean to talk over you. I never want to do
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    that.
             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: No, no, I understand, it's
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    problematic on the phone. Go ahead.
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                          I was going to say, that as a practical
             MR. SLATER:
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    matter, this can't be addressed December 23. For example,
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    defendants --
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             (Call dropped)
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             MR. SLATER: Because we won't even know the corporate
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    representatives until December 20 for the order, if we get the
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    order entered Monday, with the corporate rep notices.
16
    pushes beyond that if the order is entered Wednesday, so I'm
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    just asking that we hold that issue in abeyance.
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             We are very aware, Your Honor, and I can state for
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    the record on behalf of the plaintiffs, we do not believe we
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    have unlimited depositions and we have stated on the record
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    many times that we are interested in trying to streamline the
22
    number of depositions, but that starts with the 30(b)(6)s and
23
    who's going to be produced and where.
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: You raised good points, Mr. Slater.
25
    Why don't we discuss this on December 9 and see where we are.
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1	MR. SLATER: Okay.
2	JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. So the Court one question
3	I had is, have you all started to talk about actually
4	scheduling depositions, and where and when they're going to be
5	taken, since I think the start date is what, January 19th or
6	18th?
7	MR. SLATER: We have started to talk in obscure
8	terms. We have not made much progress other than some, you
9	know, generalities.
10	Until we know who the 30(b)(6) witnesses are and the
11	defendants have told us and that we accept this, they wanted
12	to know what the topics were going to be so they could make
13	those decisions. That's really the starting point and
14	everything will flow from that.
15	JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Yeah, but again, that's fine, but
16	the low-hanging fruit is the class action plaintiffs, right?
17	MR. SLATER: Oh, that's being worked through. That's
18	not something I'm handling personally. If someone wants to
19	chime in and explain. But I know that dates are being
20	provided.
21	MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, we have not received
22	dates.
23	JUDGE SCHNEIDER: No problem.
24	MR. GOLDBERG: We have not received dates for the
25	plaintiffs' representatives for the period January 15th

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    through end of March.
 2
             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Ouch.
             MR. GOLDBERG: And we have asked for those dates and
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 4
    then once we have those, we can start to try to figure out how
 5
    to slot the witnesses in.
 6
             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: You ought to start talking about
 7
    it.
 8
             MR. GOLDBERG: Plaintiffs need to provide the dates.
 9
             MR. SLATER: Your Honor, we understand that, and as
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    you remember, we provided dates in November and December for
11
    most of the corporate reps -- or most of the class
12
    representatives, and that the defense didn't want to proceed.
13
    So we now are going back and getting dates from everybody from
14
    scratch and they will be provided very shortly.
15
             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
                               I suggest you get cracking on that.
16
    Have you discussed, Mr. Slater, this will be in your
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    bailiwick, are there American witnesses who are going to be
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    deposed so we don't run into the translation and travel issues
    with the foreign witnesses?
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20
                          That's a great question, Your Honor.
             MR. SLATER:
21
    few of the defendants have told us in the meet-and-confer
22
    process that they expect to produce witnesses in the United
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    States to address some topics, but they haven't determined
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    which or told us which yet, because they were waiting for the
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    notices.
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session about ZHP.

We have asked over and over again to try to get those discussions going. I can tell you, for example, with ZHP, there's not going to be a surprise to Your Honor on this. We've asked multiple times and John Du, the designated representative, because he's here in the United States and presumably as an officer of ZHP would be knowledgeable about many things and there's been no commitment to that and obviously, there's no obligation to a commitment yet. But we've been asking and what we've been told is that the -- some witnesses will be produced in the U.S. Some of the defendants have been more forthcoming than others about a commitment to do so as much as possible, and some have basically said, you'll have to wait and see. So we started the discussions and we certainly would hope that everybody is going to endeavor to name as many corporate reps in the United States as possible because that obviously benefits everybody. MR. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, this is Seth Goldberg. mean, you know, I really take issue with Mr. Slater's repeated mischaracterizations of discussions that are happening in meet

We've had discussions, we've even put it in our brief, Your Honor, that there are U.S. witnesses that can be deposed, not necessarily 30(b)(6) witnesses for ZHP, as those

and confers, and it's been done throughout this many-hour

1 witnesses reside in China, but there are employees of the U.S. 2 entities which also received 30(b)(6) notices that can be 3 deposed in the U.S., and I think other defendants have 4 proposed U.S.-backed witnesses and/or U.S. 30(b)(6) witnesses. 5 In fact, from ZHP's standpoint, the 30(b)(6) 6 witnesses for ZHP, as we put in our brief, may number five to 7 seven witnesses, which -- it really shouldn't be an issue, 8 when they get deposed, plaintiffs can proceed with those witnesses that are in the U.S., and there's been no -- there's 9 10 been no disagreement about that. 11 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Well, I would suggest the parties 12 start cracking on this discussion, because the depositions are 13 going to start on January 19th, and pursuant to the schedule 14 that Judge Kugler gave you this morning, let's see, I have my 15 notes here, all fact discovery and all issues including 16 general causation and class certification have to be done by 17 April 1, 2021. That's not a whole lot of time. 18 So I think it's important for the parties to get 19 cracking on these issues about who's going to be deposed, when 20 and where. I'll leave it in your very capable hands. 21 Anyway, I don't -- looking through my notes and I 22 went through the letters about the issues to be discussed, it 23 talks about -- there was an issue, two other issues I have 24 listed in plaintiffs' letter are ZHP production deficiencies 25 and wholesaler discovery.

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             Mr. Slater, are there issues we need to deal with in
 2
    that vein?
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             MR. SLATER: I'm going to hand off to Mr. Parekh who
    I think is going to handle our argument and potentially
 4
    Ms. Hilton as well regarding the ZHP --
 5
 6
             (Connection interference.)
 7
             MR. PAREKH: Good afternoon, Your Honor, this is
 8
    Behram Parekh. The only issue that we're having with this
 9
    particular item is the establishment inspection reports which
10
    defendants have produced from the FDA, have a lot of
11
    redactions, and we've just asked to be able to sit down with
12
    defendants and try and figure out if we can determine, you
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    know, an agreed-to tooling for those redactions. Some of them
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    from our side appear to be relatively obvious that we can fill
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    in, so that we don't waste time at depositions asking
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    witnesses those questions. And defendants have just said
    no -- or ZHP has said no at this point.
17
18
             And we just wanted to reply this issue.
                                                      We're still
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    trying to meet and confer with ZHP on this issue and we'll be
20
    meeting and conferring with other defendants as well, and
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    wanted to get your guidance on that.
22
             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Can't you just subpoena the
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    unredacted documents from the FDA?
24
             MR. PAREKH: That does not appear to be something
25
    that we can do.
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1 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Why not? 2 MS. HILTON: Your Honor, I can chime in on this. 3 This is Layne Hilton. I actually did subpoena one of -- or 4 not subpoena, I FOIA'd -- through the Freedom of Information Act, one of the establishment inspection reports, specifically 5 6 the August 2018 establishment inspection report. And when it 7 was produced to me, which of course pursuant to the Court's 8 order, we then produced to defendants, it contained these 9 redactions. 10 My understanding is that when the FDA produces 11 documents pursuant to FOIA requests, they are required to 12 redact out what they believe to be sensitive, commercial 13 information that belongs to the entity for which is the 14 subject of the document, in this case, ZHP. 15 So we did actually proactively FOIA this document and 16 we received it well before we ever received it in the 17 production. It's simply that we received it with redactions. 18 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I guess my question is, why didn't 19 you subpoena -- why don't you subpoena the complete document, 20 then the Court has jurisdiction over the issue and then we 21 could rule on the issue. But if it's in the context of a 22 FOIA, we don't have jurisdiction. 23 Right, Your Honor. Well, yeah, you make MS. HILTON: 24 a really valid point here. We'll look into the possibility of 25 subpoenaing it, and then, you know, potentially, if ZHP would

1 consent to the release of the information, we may be able to 2 get somewhere. So we'll research that possibility on our end. 3 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Subject to the confidentiality 4 designations, what have you. But I think the subpoena should 5 ask for unredacted copies, not redacted copies, and --6 wouldn't it be up to the FDA to then file a motion for 7 protective order and then we can decide the issue and get the -- if appropriate, get the unredacted documents. 9 MS. HILTON: Yes, Your Honor, we'll look into that. 10 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Good. Yeah, I think that would be 11 a prudent way to proceed if ZHP says they don't have the 12 unredacted documents. 13 MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, this is Barbara Schwartz 14 for the ZHP defendants. That's correct, ZHP does not have the 15 unredacted documents. It only has the copies from the FDA 16 with the redactions as they've been produced. 17 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: But presumably -- well, that's -- I 18 know, that's strange, though, that ZHP doesn't have complete 19 copies of its own documents? But be that as it may, if that's 20 your position, fine. Presumably the FDA has unredacted 21 copies. So it seems to me a subpoena is the appropriate way 22 to proceed, and then we'll -- those are important documents, 23 so we ought to tee up that issue. 24 MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, just to make clear, the 25 documents are not our documents, they are FDA documents.

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JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Oh, well, I'm sorry, I apologize,
you're right. They're FDA inspection reports and what, did
they send you -- not you, ZHP redacted copies?
         MS. SCHWARTZ: That's correct.
                          Okay. Well, then, undoubtedly --
         JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
I'm repeating myself, the FDA has -- is the only source of the
complete copies, so let them say why they can't produce
complete copies.
         MR. PAREKH: Your Honor, this is Behram Parekh.
                                                         Just
so that we're clear on this. I mean, we can certainly do
that. It's my experience in prior cases that the FDA under
Title 21, Section 20 of the CFR, has the right to not produce
those records and decline to produce on the basis that it --
the only way to get those records from the FDA is via a FOIA
         We can obviously do some more research on this
issue.
       The last time I did this was about five years ago, but
that sort of -- that was what I was trying to get at at the
beginning.
         JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Well, I'd like to see the law on
that, that says that the FDA doesn't have to comply with a
Court order.
         Anyway, I think you should serve a subpoena and then
it will be up to the FDA to file a motion for protective order
or plaintiffs file a motion to compel. We'll get them before
the Court and we'll decide the issue.
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1 MR. PAREKH: We will do that, Your Honor. Thank you. 2 JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Great. 3 Then the wholesaler discovery, was there an issue 4 there, Counsel? 5 MR. STANOCH: Your Honor, David Stanoch for 6 plaintiffs. We'll be very brief. There's only two things 7 here, Your Honor. One is the normal sort of request-by-request sort of deficiencies that we believe exist 9 with each defendant. They claim they all couldn't get on the 10 phone before this. We'll accept that. We're happy to talk to 11 It would just be helpful if Your Honor sort of 12 reiterates that we don't need all three parties on to 13 coordinate for one call, to talk about defendants' specific 14 objections. 15 Of course, if there's an overarching issue, we're 16 happy to say they have to go talk amongst themselves, but we 17 shouldn't have to get a Goldilocks date where their stars 18 align for everyone just to meet and confer. So I think 19 there's nothing on that one. 20 Except, Your Honor, Issue 2, which is the issue in 21 our letter and Mr. Slater's letter on Page 15 regarding all 22 defendants -- wholesaler defendants' objections producing 23 certain data on the basis of the Drug Supply Chain Security 24 Act. 25 We concisely set forth that the first time we saw

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this after months of back and forth and argument and Court rulings, is in their written objections. We had hoped to resolve it informally, but after, you know, last time we talked to them about this was November 3rd. Here we are November 24th, haven't heard back from them. We don't want this to slip through the cracks. So if Your Honor would like, perhaps it could be teed up for a later time, but I think it's something we're going to have to address. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Can someone speak to the wholesalers on this issue? Because I don't know what the -what actually happened, but if I recall correctly, I think plaintiffs breached that -- that the first time the issue was raised was just recently. Everybody knows how much time we've spent dealing with these objections. Is this a new objection that was just raised? MR. GEOPPINGER: Your Honor, Jeff Geoppinger on behalf of the wholesalers and AmerisourceBergen. Honor, this language has been in our responses since August when they received the first round of responses to their request for production. So it is not -- it is not a new issue, it's a new

So it is not -- it is not a new issue, it's a new issue that the plaintiffs reached out to us a meet and confer on, on November 3rd. You know, Mr. Stanoch suggested we haven't heard back from them. On November 3rd, we discussed

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that issue, along with the letter on the deficiencies he described which we just received on November 18th, along with a repeat of this issue on -- about this particular response, not -- I wouldn't qualify it as an objection. It's part of our written response to those requests for production.

So, you know, we're willing -- we need to meet and confer on the other issues. Somebody can address this one along the way there. We think we should at least give that a

attempt to resolve this, because while the wholesalers have,

I think there's a very practical way to, you know,

you know, stated in their response, not objection, that there is a prohibition on them producing a certain bit of data

13 called P3 data that is potentially responsive to these

requests, these requests are broader than that.

have a lot of the information in them.

We have produced documents in response to these requests, and there's other documents produced by us as well as potentially the manufacturers and the retailers who don't have the kind of prohibition that, for some reason that is on the wholesalers, that is on -- that's in the Supply Chain Security Act. There may be a way to, you know, practically to

To answer your question, this isn't a new objection, Your Honor. It's not an objection in our view at all. It's part of our response.

resolve this, by looking at those other documents which likely

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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Okay. Can I make a suggestion
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    that, of course, you should meet and confer on it, but work it
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    out amongst yourselves, agree on a briefing schedule using
    letter briefs to see if we can tee this issue up on the
 4
    December 23rd call so we can put it to bed.
 5
 6
             Whatever briefing schedule you agree to, that you
 7
    can't -- if you can't work out an issue, that's fine, but why
 8
    don't we try and get this issue teed up and behind us on
 9
    December 23rd.
10
             MR. GEOPPINGER: All right. Your Honor, hopefully,
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    we will be able to have a practical solution before that, but
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    we will have a briefing schedule --
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
                               I hope so.
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             MR. STANOCH: For plaintiffs, thank you, Your Honor.
15
                               You're welcome. Okay.
             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
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             I think -- let me look at Mr. Goldberg's letter.
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             MS. LOCKARD: Your Honor, this is Victoria Lockard
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    from Greenberg Traurig and Teva. We -- and we submitted the
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    letter this time because the executive committee has -- we've
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    agreed to take turns because it --
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             JUDGE SCHNEIDER:
                               No problem. No problem at all.
22
             MS. LOCKARD: We have Jeff Greene on the line. We
23
    had included the TAR issue in the agenda.
                                               I don't know if
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    there's much to discuss there, but I wanted to make sure that
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    we were heard on that, and Jeff, if you're on, if there's
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was proposed.

anything we need to put on the record and the Judge is inclined to hear it, then I think that's the only other issue we had in our letter as such. JUDGE SCHNEIDER: I'll hear anything you want to say, but I think the parties have exhaustively briefed and argued I saw Mr. Slater's discussion of the issue in his I hope it's not necessary, I don't think it is, to respond to that. You're going to get the Court's ruling promptly on it, so. I don't want to cut anybody off. I want to make sure that everyone feels comfortable that they've had a full and fair opportunity to present their argument, but I don't know what can be raised that has not already been raised, unless you could say that you worked it out and the issue is moot. Unfortunately, that's not the case, MS. LOCKARD: Your Honor. I wish I could. MR. GREENE: Hey, Your Honor, Jeff Greene. Just a quick point and I'm not -- obviously, I'm going to take seriously what you just said. I think the only thing I would say with respect to the submission from Mr. Slater yesterday was, you know, concerned sort of misrepresentations that Mr. Slater alleged, and I think, for example, with respect to the 5,000 documents that, you know, during the discussion that we had over the summer, you know, I think it's clear that that

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I think, Your Honor, you came to us during those discussions and said, give us your best and final, you know, in terms of an offer to make this, you know, to get Mr. Slater to accept. We did that with the proviso that Your Honor would actually be looking at those 5,000 documents after Teva had called out the documents relating to privilege and/or other product information.

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So it was never contemplated and I think it's a misrepresentation to say that we had turned over -- that we had volunteered as part of a TAR protocol that we never agreed to, to turn over 5,000 documents to plaintiffs. And, you know, I think that at the end of the day, Your Honor, and just to sort of reiterate, you know, this is really just about proportionality, and it's not about the do's and don'ts of TAR, but, you know, if I'm allowed 20 words or less and I was never good at math so I can't count all that well, but it's not about TAR. This is about proportionality and it's about Teva having to review four million or potentially millions of nonresponsive documents, when we know the technology is there, we know the metrics are there, and the rules were adjusted -the Federal Rules were adjusted for this very purpose to take proportionality into consideration.

So with that, Your Honor, I'll stop and I certainly don't want to argue all the points we've made ad nauseam. I thank you for your indulgence.

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JUDGE SCHNEIDER: Thank you. I really don't think
there's anything I need to hear from plaintiffs on the issue.
I know the parties' positions in detail, and I expect you'll
get the Court's ruling promptly.
         Are there any other issues to address?
         Okay. Well, thank you, Counsel. I think it was a
productive day. I'm trying to get everything done before the
end of the year, so you can get your depositions started.
         We'll see -- we'll keep on working in that vein and
there being nothing else, we'll adjourn.
         And, Karen, I can't thank you enough under difficult
circumstances for helping us out with the transcripts.
         So just like Judge Kugler said, we hope everyone
stays safe, have a great holiday, good luck, and we're
adjourned.
         (3:19 p.m.)
         I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
/S/ Karen Friedlander, CRR, RMR
Court Reporter/Transcriber_
November 25, 2020
Date
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